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# **BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE**

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**Quantity partition of noncount nouns expressed by partitive constructions**

Lexikální prostředky umožňující přechod nepočítatelných substantiv k počítatelnosti

Velice děkuji vedoucí své bakalářské práce, doc. PhDr. Markétě Malé, Ph.D., za nesmírnou trpělivost, čas, pracovní nasazení, cenné rady a komentáře, díky kterým bylo jednodušší tuto práci dokončit.

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## Abstract

The thesis explores the category of countability, with the main focus being on noncount nouns. The aim is to describe lexical means that enable noncount nouns to have count usage. The theoretical part firstly distinguishes count nouns from noncount nouns on the basis of their linguistic (i.e. grammatical, formal and semantic) features. Further, it delineates in more detail the means through which noncount nouns acquire the count usage; the most space is given to defining partitive constructions, their types, and possible vagueness.

The practical part consists of an analysis of twelve selected noncount nouns and their respective partitives. The data are extracted from the British National Corpus (BNC). The partitives are divided according to their type and the thesis gives a quantitative, as well as a semantic classification of these partitives for each of the selected noncount nouns. The adjective modification of the noncount nouns is also partially studied.

**Key words:** common noun, noncount noun, partitive noun, nominal oblique, *of*-construction

## Abstrakt

Cílem této bakalářské práce je popsat kategorii počitatelnosti. Největší pozornost je věnovaná nepočitatelným substantivům a lexikálním prostředkům, díky kterým je možné nepočitatelná substantiva převést na počitatelná. V teoretické části jsou popsány gramatické, formální a sémantické rozdíly mezi počitatelnými a nepočitatelnými substantivy. Práce se dále zaměřuje na popsání partitivních prostředků, kterých se používá k tomuto přechodu, jejich typů, a možné vágnosti jejich významu.

Praktická část se skládá z analýzy dvanácti vybraných nepočitatelných substantiv a jejich příslušných singulativ (partitivních substantiv). Materiál a příklady jsou čerpány z Britského národního korpusu. Singulativa jsou rozdělena podle jejich typu; práce podává jak kvantitativní, tak sémantickou klasifikaci singulativ ke každému z vybraných nepočitatelných substantiv. Dalším aspektem analýzy je také sledování modifikace nepočitatelných substantiv pomocí přídavných jmen.

**Klíčová slova:** obecné substantivum, nepočitatelné substantivum, singulativum, partitivní substantivum, *of*-konstrukce

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## **List of Abbreviations and Symbols**

BNC – British National Corpus

\* ungrammatical form

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# 1. Introduction

This BA thesis aims to examine the means through which noncount nouns can be made count, i.e. to have boundaries; the focus will be mainly on partitive constructions, which enable such transition. Firstly, the theoretical part will describe the distinction between count and noncount nouns, i.e. their different grammatical, semantic and formal features. The second half will delineate in more detail the means through which noncount nouns acquire the count usage; the most space will be given to defining partitive constructions, their types, and possible vagueness.

The practical part will consist of analysing twelve English noncount nouns, six concrete ones and six abstract ones in regard to their respective partitives. The selected noncount nouns are: *salt, meat, wine, ice, underwear, dust; humour, fun, luck, silence, anger, and violence*. The data will be taken from the British National Corpus (BNC). The aim is to give a quantitative, as well as a semantic classification of the respective partitives for each of the selected noncount nouns. The partitive nouns will be classified firstly according to their type (i.e. quality, quantity, ‘units of measurement’ partitives) and further on, typical quantity partitives will be categorized according to their semantic meaning. The semantic classification of partitives will be different for concrete and abstract nouns, as the abstract noncount nouns are expected to occur with a different set of partitives, which may be less precise in regard to quantity. Moreover, such partitives that will have literal meaning with concrete nouns may be expected to have metaphorical meaning with abstract nouns (e.g. *bag*). It is anticipated that general quantity partitives will appear naturally with both concrete and abstract nouns.

The focus will also be on the possible modification of the selected noncount nouns and their partitives.

## 2. Theoretical Background

### 2.1 Countability of nouns

The category of countability, like the category of number, reflects differences in extra-linguistic reality (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.2), namely, whether a noun is, in some way, limited by any boundaries.

#### 2.1.1 Noun classes

Countability is one of the grammatical categories which characterize the English noun. It is fully applicable to ‘common nouns’ only; partially, it applies to ‘proper nouns’ (such as *Sid*; Quirk et al., 2007: 245), since proper nouns may sometimes have the same function as common nouns, e.g. person and family names: *the Joneses*; *The last bridegroom to be married [...] is also a Tim.*; denoting resemblance to a certain person: *But a man who takes control of a state whether it be for good or ill, a Napoleon or a Genghis Khan, a Caesar or a Charlemagne, these are remembered and remembered as great.*; and lastly the names of products of certain brands: *I got a Bentley* (Biber et al., 2007: 247).

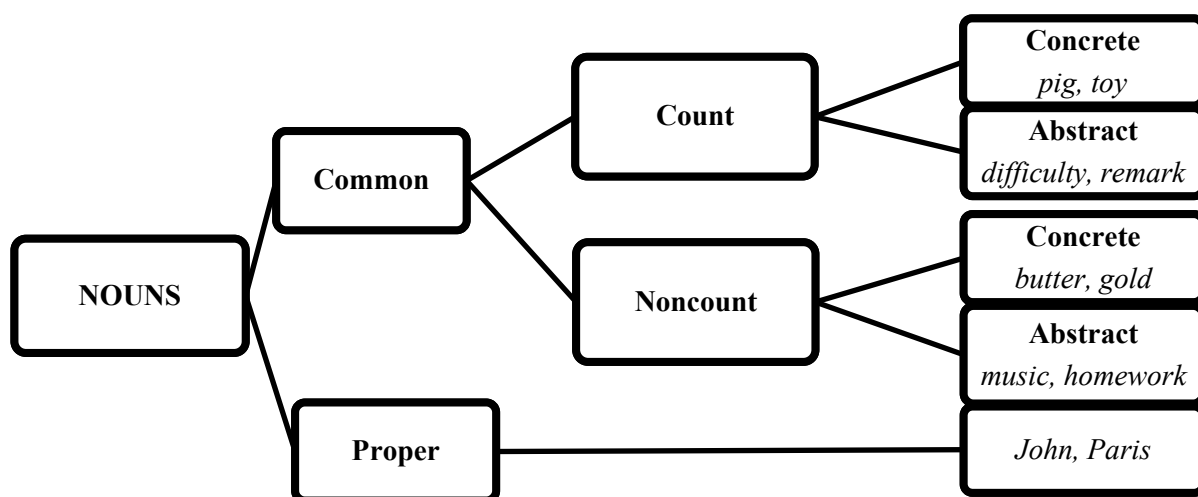
Common nouns can be classified either into count (or also ‘countable’<sup>1</sup>), i.e. “denoting individual countable entities” such as *bottle*, *chair*, *idea* or *forest* (Quirk et al. 1985: 246), or noncount (‘mass nouns’ (ibid.), or ‘uncountable nouns’<sup>2</sup>), i.e. “denoting an undifferentiated mass or continuum”, such as *furniture*, *bread*, *grass*, *warmth* or *music* (ibid.).

Another important distinction is between concrete and abstract nouns. Concrete are such nouns that can be accessed through senses, are observable and can be measured, e.g. *pig*, *toy*, or *bun* (ibid.: 247). Abstract nouns are defined, on the other hand, as those that cannot be measured and observed, e.g. *difficulty*, *warmth*, or *remarks* (ibid.). Count and noncount nouns may be either abstract or concrete, there is therefore an overlap between these two categories, i.e. there exist count abstract and concrete nouns, as well as noncount abstract and concrete ones. This distinction is closely connected with the fact that the category of countability is both grammatical and semantic (ibid.), like the category of number. (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.2). Figure 1 summarizes the most important noun classes that were mentioned so far.

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<sup>1</sup> Biber et al., 2007: 243.

<sup>2</sup> Biber et al., 2007: 243.



**Figure 1: The most important noun classes; based on Quirk et al., 1985: 247**

### **2.1.2 Semantics of count and noncount nouns**

Semantics, as was mentioned, is one of the defining aspects of the category of countability. Looking at nouns from the semantic point of view, count nouns are such which “denote a class of individuated entities of the same kind” (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 335), in other words, are those which denote discrete entities (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.2). For example, the noun *boy* represents the class of *boys*. (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 335). Each of the pieces that a *boy* consists of are “atomic” (ibid.) because they cannot be separated into smaller amounts or pieces, otherwise the *boy* would not stay whole. The parts create the *boy*, e.g. *head, arms, legs...* (ibid.) but are not *boy* himself. Therefore, semantically, count nouns are such nouns that have certain boundaries or limits and the parts the nouns consist of create an aggregate (if the whole entity of *boy* is to be expressed). However, the entities can stand on their own, to denote distinct parts (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.2).

Noncount nouns often denote “physical substances” (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 335) such as *silver, hydrogen, etc.* (ibid.). These nouns are not constrained by boundaries and their division can be only done by means of quantitative partition (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.2); certain desired amounts can be easily divided into discrete vessels or containers, e.g. it is possible to divide certain amount of *water* into distinct portions and those themselves would still indicate (a portion) of *water* (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 336). Secondly, it could be said that there is another semantic division of noncount nouns, i.e. noncount nouns that are heterogenous (as opposite to homogenous ones, such as *water*), which still, however, do not have (as the homogenous ones) concrete boundaries (ibid.), e.g. the noun *crockery*. The term *crockery* comprises various things and articles which are bound together by their identical or similar use in the kitchen, such as *plates, dishes, cups, saucers, etc.* (ibid.). However, unlike

with the homogenous noncount nouns, the “subdivisibility feature” (ibid.) (the possibility to have *water* in a container and it still remains *water*) is applicable only to a limited extent. *Crockery* therefore stands for “a heterogeneous aggregate of parts” (ibid.), but still can be classified as a noncount noun because of its non-existent boundary. Nouns such as *baggage*, *jewellery*, *underwear*, *equipment* may also be put into this sub-category of noncount nouns.

### 2.1.3 Grammatical means distinguishing between count and noncount nouns

Firstly, in English, the possibility to form a plural form of a noun in most cases signalizes the countability of that noun: *a cucumber / two cucumbers*, *a meaning / several meanings* (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.2), in comparison, the impossibility to form the plural indicates uncountability, e.g. *popularity / \*popularities* (ibid.). Even though a few noncount nouns do exist in a plural form, primarily plural invariable nouns such as *goods*, *pains* (ibid.), *funds*, *guts*, *odds*, etc. (Quirk et al., 1985: 302), such nouns are very sporadic compared to count plurals (Dušková et al. 2009: 3.2).

Secondly, count and noncount nouns can be distinguished on the basis of “combinability with numerical expressions”<sup>3</sup> (ibid.). Three categories of English nouns may be recognized: 1) count nouns that have no restrictions regarding combinability with numeric expressions, e.g. *three/several/many/over two thousand - proposals/years/errors*, etc. (ibid.) 2) noncount nouns that “do not occur with definite numerals at all”<sup>4</sup> (ibid.); the nouns in this class combine with special expressions denoting indefinite large or small amount or number; the expressions used with noncount nouns are *much/little*; those for count nouns are *many*, *a few*, *few*, etc. 3) Lastly, between the categories of nouns mentioned in 1) and 2) there are such nouns that “do not connect with certain low numerals, but connect with expression indicating certain (vague) quantity and also with numerals indicating higher numbers”<sup>5</sup> (ibid.), for example *about five hundred cattle* (ibid.). This category also incorporates such nouns that may be either count or noncount depending on the interpretation of the situation, e.g. *Would you like another chocolate?* in which *chocolate* is seen as a count noun denoting “individual unit consisting of that substance” (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 334), and therefore *another* can be substituted by an indefinite article *a/(an)*, whereas in such sentence as: *Would you like some more chocolate?* (ibid.), *chocolate* is seen as noncount because it denotes a “food substance” (ibid.) (more in 2.2.3). Therefore, to summarize, some of the noncount noun, normally having

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<sup>3</sup> „Spojovatelnost s číselnými výrazy.“ All citations from Dušková et al, 2009 are translated by Klára Divišová

<sup>4</sup> „Substantiva, která se s určitými číslovkami nespojují vůbec“

<sup>5</sup> „[Substantiva], která se nespojují s určitými nízkými číslovkami, vyskytují se však s přibližným označením počtu, popř. s číslovkami označujícími vyšší počet“

a zero article, can sometimes occur with an indefinite article (as count nouns may, in certain cases stand without it). This ability, however, is possessed by only a handful of noncount nouns, mainly if they are somehow modified (*we got up in \_ darkness – an oppressive darkness hung all around us*) (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.23). Others cannot be used in such a manner, e.g. *you gave me good advice* (ibid.). In other cases, the determiner is used only in certain constructions, e.g. expressing sympathy: *she did it out of pity – what a pity!* (ibid.).

Count and noncount nouns also differ in the way they combine with universal quantifiers, mainly *all*, *each* and *every*. *All* is used for both count (usually plural) and noncount nouns. *Each* and *every* are used only with count nouns (e.g. *every/each train – \*each/\*every bread*) and their noncount counterparts are again *all* and in addition *any* (e.g. *all/any bread*) (Dušková et al. 2009: 3.2). Furthermore, the degree of grammaticalization of the category of countability is higher in English than in Czech. This is also due to the expression of indefinite reference in the English language. The generic reference is expressed by the indefinite article with count nouns in singular (e.g. *A cat is a domestic animal*) while with noncount nouns, this is expressed by the zero article (e.g. *Salt is soluble in water*) (ibid.). The same applies to the use of the indefinite article with singular nouns in non-generic, indefinite reference.

To summarize the grammatical marking of countability, three categories of nouns can be distinguished: the nouns that are fundamentally count, those that are always noncount and those that may be either count or noncount (ibid.). The basic grammatical characteristics of count and noncount nouns are summarized in Table 1.

	Count nouns		Noncount nouns	
Number	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
	<i>Picture</i>	<i>Pictures</i>	<i>Furniture</i>	<i>0</i>
	<i>Mistake</i>	<i>Mistakes</i>	<i>Violence</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Quantifiers</b>				
Numerals	<i>One picture</i>	<i>Two pictures</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Several</i>		<i>Several mistakes</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Much/many; few</i>		<i>Many pictures</i> <i>(A) few mistakes</i>	<i>Much violence</i> <i>Little furniture</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>All, every, each</i>	<i>Every picture</i> <i>Each mistake</i>	<i>All</i> <i>pictures/mistakes</i>	<i>All furniture</i> <i>All/any violence</i>	<i>0</i>
<b>Indefinite determination</b>				
Generic	<i>A mistake is</i> <i>no crime</i>		<i>Violence does not solve</i> <i>problems</i>	<i>0</i>
Non-generic, indefinite	<i>I made a</i> <i>mistake</i>		<i>That would do violence</i> <i>to his principles</i>	<i>0</i>

**Table 1: Non/Countability of nouns; based on Dušková et al., 2009: 3.2**

#### **2.1.4 Formal features of count and noncount nouns**

The category of number also plays a significant role in defining count and noncount nouns. There exist three number classes of nouns: ‘variable nouns’ (those appearing in both singular and plural reference naturally, i.e. count nouns), ‘singular invariable nouns’ (such nouns that appear only with a singular verb; among them noncount nouns), and ‘plural invariable nouns’ (those nouns combining with verbs in plural) (Quirk et al., 1985: 297). ‘Singular invariable nouns’ will be discussed the most, with a partial reference to plural invariable nouns, mainly where the categorization of those nouns is not straightforward (i.e. the nouns may either fall into the category of plural or singular invariable nouns).

##### **Singular invariable nouns**

‘Singular invariable nouns’ can be divided into three main categories: noncount nouns; most proper nouns (e.g. *Thomas, the Thames*); and abstract adjective heads (e.g. *the mystical*) (Quirk et al., 1985: 297). To this category may be also incorporated the names of games (e.g. *draughts, darts...*) and other nouns, such as *news* that though having a seemingly plural form

(*new* + *s*), take in concord a verb in a singular form e.g. *No news is good news* (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.13.1) as “the *new* is not a noun, nor *-s* an inflectional suffix” (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 346) in this case.

The seemingly most discussed category is the one of noncount nouns. It concerns both concrete and abstract nouns that only appear in singular form. However, in some cases it is possible to make a noncount noun count and that is through reclassification. Some concrete reclassified nouns get a specific meaning, e.g. *butters* (“kinds of butter”); some abstract nouns may be reclassified as count “where they refer to an instance of a given abstract phenomenon: *regrets, kindnesses, pleasures, etc.*” (Quirk et al., 1985: 299). Also, nouns that are usually noncount, mainly those concerning nature and “natural phenomena” (ibid.), can in certain cases take a plural form, e.g. *walking through the woods; let’s play on the sands* (ibid.).

The difficulty in categorization of singular and plural invariable nouns arises mainly due to the fact that there is an inconsistency in the classification of certain groups of nouns to either singular or plural invariable category, i.e. for example nouns ending in *-ics, -s, -ic* are in some grammars classified as ‘singular invariable nouns’ (Quirk et al., 1985: 299; Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 347), others define them among ‘plural invariable nouns’ (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.13.2).

### **Plural invariable nouns**

‘Plural invariable nouns’ are nouns in plural form which, in a sentence, function as regular count nouns in plural. However, they are in fact, noncount (Biber et al., 2007: 289), and do not have a singular counterpart (see Martínková, 2009). The verb and the demonstrative have the form of a plural: *Those scissors are blunt* (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.13.2). The plural invariable nouns are divided into several semantic groups: clothing and articles of clothing (e.g. *clothes, pyjamas, trousers, shorts, knickers, jeans, braces*, etc); tools (such as *scissors, tongs, scales, glasses* etc); certain maladies (*megrims, creeps*, etc.), feelings, moods; nouns ending in *-ics*; concrete adjective heads; and others (such as proper geographical names, e.g. *the Netherlands*, etc) (ibid.). Maladies pose a difficulty because certain illnesses such as *measles, mumps* (ibid.), and *shingles* (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 346) are used primarily in singular concord. Also, the nouns ending in *-ics* have their specifications and exceptions. Although in general it could be said that such nouns (with *-ics* ending) refer to sciences (*economics, linguistics, physics*), the difference is in their concord with a verb. If what is meant is the science itself, in terms of an explanation of its meaning (e.g. *Acoustics deals with sound*) (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.13.2) then the verb is used in singular. However, if what is

meant is the application or feature of a certain science (e.g. *The acoustics of the new concert hall are excellent.*) (ibid.) the verb is in plural.

Finally, it should be also noted that nouns in this category do not occur with numerals and “do not vary for number” (Biber et al., 2007: 245). Instead, quantity (and therefore countability (ibid.)) is with some nouns expressed through a partitive construction *a pair of*, e.g. *a pair/two pairs of trousers* (ibid.). *A pair of* is just one example of possible partitive constructions that will be discussed in more detail in sub-chapter 2.3.

## **2.2 Conversion from noncount nouns to count nouns**

As was already mentioned in the previous chapter, some nouns are strictly noncount; for example, *accuracy, anger, despair, happiness; meat, chess, bread* or *equipment* (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.23). As illustrated by these examples the category of noncount nouns comprises both concrete and abstract entities. Rather a specific group of noncount nouns are “nominal adjectives”<sup>6</sup> such as *the beautiful, the unknown*, etc. (ibid.).

There are several ways how some of the noncount nouns can be converted to count ones and vice versa. Firstly, it is the use of an article with noncount nouns that make the conversion possible (discussed in sub-chapter 2.1.3). Secondly, some nouns have dual class membership and alternate between count and noncount uses according to the situation. Thirdly, noncount nouns can be reclassified to count nouns through the use of partitive constructions.

### **2.2.1 Nouns with dual class membership**

Depending on the situation and context, some English nouns can be used either as count or noncount (Quirk et al., 1985: 247). Therefore, many primarily count nouns have noncount uses and vice versa (Biber et al., 2007: 243). Such nouns have ‘dual class membership’ (Quirk et al., 1985: 247), i.e. they display count/noncount polysemy (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 336). An example may be the noun *cake*: *Would you like a cake?* (meaning ‘a piece of cake’) and *No, I do not like cake* (meaning the dish in general, in any form) (Quirk et al., 1985: 247). Therefore, in some cases, the interpretation of count and noncount meaning is predictable; one meaning may be deduced from the other one (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 336). The count and noncount uses of other nouns, however, may differ in meaning (Quirk et al., 1985: 247), which needs to be specified (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 336). That is the case of nouns such as *paper, fruit, iron, or toast*. In *I want an evening paper*, *paper* is used as a count

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<sup>6</sup> „Substantivizovaná adjektiva“



noun meaning ‘newspaper’; conversely, *Wrap the parcel up in brown paper* (Quirk et al., 1985: 247), illustrates the noncount use ‘wrapping paper’ (ibid.). Similarly *iron* in count sense denotes the tool for straightening clothes, whereas in the noncount sense, it represents hard, magnetic metal (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.22.5). Hence, the count and noncount senses are semantically differentiated (ibid.).

Therefore, the means of shifting nouns from a count noun to a noncount noun (and vice versa) without a change in form is conversion (Quirk et al., 1985: 248). The process therefore involves a semantic and a systematic shift (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.22). There are several categories of this conversion that can be distinguished: 1. Substance, animate entity – single realization of the substance or entity; 2. Substance – type/variety; 3. Abstracts – event instantiations/results; 4. Noncount substance interpretations of primary count nouns; 5. Quality – person.<sup>7</sup>

### 2.2.1.1 Categorization of nouns having dual class membership

#### 1. Substance, animate entity – single realization of the substance, entity

Firstly, drinks and food can be incorporated here. Drinks are generally noncount, but it is possible to create a count version of the nouns, when what is meant is a serving of the beverage, e.g. a *bottle/cup of tea*, or *lemonade*, or *orange-juice* (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 336). Therefore, *beer* is viewed as a noncount noun in *I don’t like beer*, but can as well be used in a count sense, meaning a measurable portion/single realization: *She offered me another beer*, which can be interpreted as e.g. *a glass of beer*, *a bottle of beer*, or *a beer keg* (ibid.). Similarly, *ice* denotes a portion of an ice-cream (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.22.3). This count and noncount interpretation of the same noun denoting a drink also applies to “brand names” of these drinks, e.g. *Ovaltine* (-*Ovaltines*) (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 336). Foods in count sense, however, are more situation-bound to ordering in restaurants: *That makes five porks and two turkeys, please* (ibid.). Secondly, not only digestible entities, but also other substances belong to this category, e.g. *rock*, *straw*, *hair* (*a wall made of stone – throw stones*; *mats made of straw – suck lemonade through a straw* (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.22.1)), and types of trees, which do not only stand for the kind: e.g. *an oak* (count), but also for their wood: *oak* (noncount) (ibid.). The noncount noun is, therefore, classified as a

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<sup>7</sup> Categories are based on Dušková et al., 2009: 3.22:

„Látka – jednotlivina“

„Látka – druh“

„Abstrakta: činnost, vlastnost, stav – jednotlivý projev“

„Vlastnost – osoba“

substance; the count counterpart as a single realization of the substance (ibid.). Furthermore, animals and the food made of them can be assigned here. However, contrary to the substances mentioned above – which were primarily noncount – animate entities, mainly the names of fish; in some cases also poultry (*chicken, turkey*), or lamb (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 337), are in their primary sense count, e.g. *I was lucky enough to catch a salmon today* (ibid.), which represents “a fish of particular species” (ibid.). Conversely, the secondary noncount sense connotes a “food substance”: *We’re having salmon for dinner* (ibid.). It should be noted that not all animals and the meals made of them differ only in their countability. Some animals (e.g. *sheep, deer*) have also a distinct designation of names for the meat (*mutton, venison*, respectively) (ibid.).

## 2. Substance – type/variety of the substance

The primary sense of a certain substance is noncount, whereas the meaning denoting the type/variety of the substance is count. For example, the noun *cheese* in e.g. *We’re having cheese for lunch* presents the primary sense of the noun (ibid.: 336.), i.e. noncount substance. On the other hand, in: *These are two of my favourite cheeses* (ibid.) the noun *cheese* is viewed as count, denoting “kind/variety of the *cheese*” (ibid.). Many nouns which are used in a technical, specialized sense may also be said to have this ‘substance – type/variety’ dual meaning, e.g. *gases, grasses, or liquids* (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.22.3).

## 3. Abstracts – a single manifestation of the abstract entity

A vast number of abstract nouns are principally noncount in their primary sense (ibid.: 3.22.2). The abstract noncount nouns can be further divided into three groups: state nouns (e.g. *death*), nouns denoting activity (e.g. *thought*), and quality nouns (e.g. *virtue*) (ibid.). Some abstract nouns may have the extended meaning of a count noun; the meaning depicts an event or a result (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 337) in which the abstract concept is realized, such as the noun *injustice* (*Considerable injustice was revealed during the enquiry*), and its count counterpart: *Two fundamental injustices were revealed during the enquiry* (ibid.). However, the count form implying the event instantiations is not systematic, it cannot be applied to all the nouns, e.g. it does not apply to *harm/\*harms* (ibid.). Nouns denoting result are more likely to be used in the count sense. Therefore, the noncount *invention* can be used countably, in a result sense: *Edison was honoured for three separate inventions* (ibid.), but the occurrence of eventive count version is very low (*\*There were two separate*

*inventions of the light-bulb* (ibid.)). The same way behaves nouns such as *fact*, or *pain*: *I didn't feel much pain* and *a pain in the knee* (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.22.2.).

#### **4. Quality – person**

The quality is expressed by a noncount noun, e.g. *beauty*, *love*, *gossip*, or *help*; the count counterparts denote a person with that quality: *a beauty*; *she was an old love of his*; *she is an old gossip*, etc (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.22.4).

#### **5. Nonce substance interpretation of primary count nouns**

This category includes nouns with primary count sense which can be rephrased to have a noncount usage; they are therefore ‘reclassified’ to denote “a substance rather than individuals” (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 337), e.g. *There was cat all over the driveway* (ibid.).

Lastly, besides conversion, the differentiation between the count and noncount counterparts may be made by using different lexical units (Quirk et al., 1985: 248), i.e. *a garment* and its near, lexical synonym *clothing*; *a suitcase* and *luggage*; *a job* and *work*; *a laugh* and *laughter* (ibid.); *smoking* and *we had a smoke* (the count counterpart is a conversed noun) (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.24). This notion is therefore based on similarity of meaning.

The presented methods (i.e. conversion and lexical pairs) enable the transition from a noncount noun to a count one. It should be noted, however, that the differentiation via lexical units is only marginal, and it is the conversion – as the grammatical means – that is a more standard manner. However, these means, as was shown, are restricted to only a certain (quite small) group of noncount nouns. In general, the basic, most fundamental process that enables noncount nouns to be count is the use of partitive constructions, which will be further discussed in the sub-chapter 2.3.

## 2.3 Partitive constructions

Noncount nouns that cannot occur in a count sense (or are used in a noncount meaning) can be converted to count nouns by lexical means, which are called ‘partitive constructions’<sup>8</sup> (Quirk et al., 1985: 249). The partitive constructions are constructions that depict “a part of a whole” (Quirk et al., 1985: 249). They are composed of: a ‘quantificational noun’ (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 349) / ‘partitive noun’ (Quirk et al., 1985: 249) (denoting the part) + ‘of’ + ‘the noun phrase complement of *of*’, i.e. ‘the oblique’ (denoting the whole) (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 349). In this thesis, only the nominal (and mainly noncount) obliques will be taken into consideration. The partitive nouns can be defined as being generally followed by *of* and as providing “a way of referring to parts of items which are difficult to divide or to items which are grouped together in particular ways” (Sinclair et al., 1987 in Channell, 1994: 99). The components in a partitive construction will be referred to as follows: *partitive noun* + *of* + *nominal oblique*. The partitive nouns can be singular or plural (Tárnyiková, 2010: 73), and their lexical meaning is weakened, as those nouns “only substitute the faculty of count use”<sup>9</sup> (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.24).

It should be noted, however, that there is a difference between strict partitive nouns and quantifying nouns, which Channell calls ‘pseudopartitives’ (Channell, 1994: 99), such as *bags of*, *a bit of*, or *a lot of* (ibid.) which are, in their sense, too vague for denoting a distinguishable part. However, the strict partitive nouns and pseudopartitives, also called ‘vague non-numerical quantifiers’ (Tárnyiková, 2010: 71), share the following features: the main focus is aimed on quantity partition (which will be the main indicator of partition), and the scale of nouns ranges from ‘+ quantity’ to ‘neutral’ to ‘– quantity’ (ibid.). As will be shown, these “pseudopartitives” are regularly included among partitives in the grammars mentioned so far, and the problem of vagueness of meaning will be discussed separately in sub-chapter 2.3.2.

Lastly, it should be mentioned that both count and noncount obliques can appear in a partitive construction (Quirk et al., 1985: 249), but the primary focus here will be given to the noncount ones. The partitive constructions can be divided into three classes: ‘Quality partition’, ‘Quantity partition’, and ‘Measure partition’ (ibid.: 249, 251).

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<sup>8</sup> In Czech: ‘singulativa’ (Dušková et al., 2009: 3.24)

<sup>9</sup> „[Lexikální prostředky zde] pouze suplují schopnost počítatelného užití“

## 2.3.1 Types of partition

### 2.3.1.1 Quality partition

Quality partition is formed by a partitive noun that is count (and can be, therefore, singular or plural), which is complemented by an *of*-nominal oblique phrase. The prototypical quality partitive nouns are *type*, *sort* and *kind* (Quirk et al., 1985: 249), as in e.g. *a delicious sort of bread* or *other types of research* (ibid.). Similarly, the partitive nouns which denote type can be also called ‘species nouns’, such as *species*, *class* and *make* (e.g. *The scheme covers any make of machine*) (Biber et al., 2007: 255). The quality partition can be followed by either count or noncount obliques and there is (in the case of count obliques) a tendency towards grammatical agreement, e.g. *that kind of thing*, *all kinds of things* (ibid.).

### 2.3.1.2 Quantity partition

As the name of this category implies, it includes such partitive nouns that denote some quantity, portion or amount. It is further divided into three subcategories based on the nominal obliques the partitive nouns are connected with: ‘Plural count obliques’, ‘Singular count obliques’, and mainly ‘Noncount obliques’ (based on Quirk et al., 1985: 249). (see also Brems, 2010).

#### 1. Plural count obliques

The primary partitives with which the plural count obliques connect are e.g. *a packet of (cigarettes)*, *a crowd of (people)*, *a flock of (birds/sheep)*, *a bunch/group of (teenagers)* (ibid.: 250.). The partitive nouns presented are quite general in their meaning, and they frequently occur, as it is evident from the examples, in the partitive constructions denoting “the type of entity making up a group” (Biber et al., 2007: 248). The partitive nouns can be also called ‘quantifying collectives’ (ibid.). The most productive quantifying collectives *bunch*, *group* and *set* (ibid.: 249) are seen as general, flexibly occurring with different types of plural count obliques. On the other hand, there are such quantifying collectives, e.g. *flock*, *crowd*, and *bouquet* which are restricted to a certain kind of nominal oblique (animals, people, and plants, respectively) (ibid.).

#### 2. Singular count obliques

A partitive construction may also comprise a singular count noun as the nominal oblique. The partitive noun can be either singular or plural, e.g. *a piece/(pieces) of a loaf*, *a page of a book* (Quirk et al., 1985: 250).

### 3. Noncount obliques

The quantification and countability of noncount nouns can be achieved by reclassification (discussed previously) and by means of ‘general’ and ‘typical’ partitive nouns (Quirk et al., 1985: 249). Such partitives can be also called ‘unit nouns’ (Biber et al., 2007: 250); they make it possible to separate the undifferentiated mass into individual entities or items (ibid.). The most frequent ‘general partitive nouns’ are *a piece*, and *a bit*; *a piece of* can be used with concrete and abstract noncount obliques: *a piece of bacon* (concrete), *a piece of information* (abstract) (Quirk et al., 1985: 249). *Bit* usually indicates “a small quantity” (ibid.) of concrete nouns. One partitive noun may be added to the inventory: *item*, which is not often found to co-occur with concrete nouns (ibid.). From the grammatical point of view, they have the qualities of typical count nouns (ibid.). In addition to ‘general partitive nouns’ there exist ‘typical partitive nouns’, which are more expressive, detailed in their sense, but also limited in the meaning, as they connect only with a specific, definite set of noncount obliques:

*A bar of chocolate/soap/gold/iron*

*A block of ice*

*A drop of water/oil/whisky*

*A grain of corn/rice/sand/salt*

*A sheet of paper/metal/ice*

*A slice of bacon/bread/cake/meat*

*A speck of dust/dirt*

*A strip of cloth/land/paper* (Quirk et al., 1985: 250)

It should be noted that majority of noncount obliques are not linked to one partitive noun (general nor typical only); on the contrary, their distribution is usually highly variable, e.g. *paper* can appear in a partitive construction with: *ball*, *flake*, *fragment*, *length*, *mound*, *pad*, *piece*, *roll*, *sheaf*, *wad*, etc. (Biber et al., 2007: 251).

#### 2.3.1.3 Measure partition

The partitive measure nouns express the precise quantity meaning “length, area, volume, and weight” (Quirk et al., 1985: 251). The partitive measure nouns may occur as either plural or singular: *a gallon/two gallons of water*, and if they are plural, their oblique must be either plural or noncount: *two kilos of apples* (\*apple), *two gallons of water* (ibid.). The partitive measure nouns can be matched with ‘quantifying nouns’, which “refer to quantities of both masses and entities” (Biber et al., 2007: 252); in addition, partitive measure nouns expressing

type of container and shape may be also incorporated into this category (ibid.). The primary partitive measure nouns categories that include mainly noncount obliques are listed below:

- Standardized measure terms

This category comprises all measure partitives listed by Quirk et al. (1985: 251), i.e. length (*a foot of wire, a yard of cloth*); volume (*a litre of wine, a pint of milk*); weight (*an ounce of tobacco, a ton of coal*), and area (*a hectare of land*). Essentially, the same examples are used by Biber et al.

- Partitive nouns signifying types of container or shape

The remaining partitive measure nouns can be further divided into those that denote a type of container, such as: *a barrel of brandy, powder; a crate of champagne, fruit; a cup of coffee, soup, or a packet of cocaine*, and those that denote a shape of the oblique: *a heap of rubble; pile of rubbish, wood, or wedge of bronze* (Biber et al., 2007: 252).

### **2.3.2 Modification**

The position of modifiers in the partitive constructions should be mentioned. They can appear before the partitive noun or after *of*, therefore, they either modify the partitive noun or the nominal oblique, e.g. *a piece of legal advice* (*legal* modifying *advice*, the nominal oblique) vs. *a large flock of sheep* (*large* modifying the collective partitive) vs. *a flock of small shepherd* (ibid.). Modifiers can, in some cases, stand in both of the mentioned positions: *a thick piece of broken glass, great bunches of shaggy chrysanthemums, or furry pieces of animal hide* (ibid.). Adjectives, such as *fine* or *grand*, may also qualify the whole partitive phrase, not just its part. Therefore ‘fine’ in *a fine bunch of men* modifies both *bunch* and *men* (ibid.).

### **2.3.3 Vagueness of partitive nouns**

Vagueness of partitive nouns is closely connected, in general, to the vagueness of (usually spoken) language (Tárnyiková, 2010: 71). Vague language may be understood as a socio-cultural norm in informal conversation, making the communication colloquial and restricted. It is also used when the entire information is not accessible, or suitable in the context (ibid.: 72). The use of vague partitive nouns, which is always context-sensitive (ibid.: 73), enhances emotive expressiveness of the everyday spoken encounters between people (ibid.): it is a means of exaggeration, boasting (*With his bags of talent my son must win*),

making compliments (*With your oceans of energy you can do miracles*), or indicating irony or resentment (ibid.).

The vague partitive nouns or ‘pseudopartitives’ (as Channell calls them) are structured and behave the same way as strict partitives; the main difference is that they “quantify vaguely” such as *a lot of* (Channell, 1994: 100). This definition, extensively, applies to many strict partitives, though, when they are used in a figurative, exaggerated sense. There must be, therefore, made a difference between the times when, e.g. *bags of* is used literally (for example *bags of sand*) and when it is used metaphorically, and is thus considered as a vague partitive noun (*bags of talent*) (Tárnyiková, 2010: 71). As was mentioned, vague partitives (the same as strict partitives) can have either plural or singular form. With the vague partitives, however, the plural form of the partitive noun usually does not indicate the “number of countable items but rather a *quantum (amount)* of them” (ibid.: 73) In addition, it is not only vague partitives that can express vagueness of quantity; it may be achieved by “approximating with round numbers, plurals, or exact numbers ‘sandwiched’ by a grey zone of adds on, as in *about five or so*” (ibid.: 81).

Several vague partitive nouns will be considered here, mainly those that are likely to appear in connection with the noncount nouns selected for the analysis. Those vague partitive nouns are: *lots*, *loads*, *a bit*, *a lot* (Channell, 1994:100, 101, 104) and, in addition, *mountain(s)*, *ocean(s)*, and *sea(s)* (Tárnyiková, 2010: 79). They can either indicate certain larger amount or quantity: ‘+ quantity’ (Channell, 1994: 96), or smaller amount or quantity: ‘– quantity’ (ibid.).

### **A lot of/Lots of/Loads of**

*A lot* may be called a number transparent partitive noun (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 349). It equals in meaning ‘much’ or ‘many’ (Channell, 1994: 107); it therefore does not refer to a certain, clear amount of the oblique; however, it has a tendency to express ‘+ quantity’ (ibid.: 106). *Lots* is more likely to co-occur with count nouns; however, the use with noncount nouns is also possible: *lots of snow*, *lots of money*, etc. (ibid.: 102). Both *lots* and *loads* are used mainly in speech (reported, or in dialogues), and they both express the ‘+ quantity’ (ibid.: 101).



### **Mountain(s) of, ocean(s) of, sea(s) of**

These vague partitives mark immensity, i.e. very large quantity. On the scale of quantity, the plural forms express “extreme quantum” (Tárnyiková, 2010: 80), and may therefore be expected to occur more frequently as partitive nouns than the singular forms. The singular forms, however, are more frequent than the plural ones (ibid.). This may show that semantically, the extreme immensity is not exploited by the language users (ibid.). Also, the plural form may be seen as overly excessive.

### **A bit of**

Although in standard grammars *a bit* is defined as denoting a small quantity (Quirk et al., 1985: 249), Channell points out that it can also stand for neutral quantity (e.g. *a piece/a bit of land*), because it connects with adjectives denoting quantity, i.e. *a small bit, a large bit* (Channell, 1994: 105). It may also indicate large quantity (‘+ quantity’), in which case it denotes an understatement (ibid.), e.g. *I got a few bits of shopping*, the buyer comes back with several full bags of goods (ibid.). *A bit* is therefore vague in that it can be used in various situations denoting different quantity, which can be deduced from the context.

Other partitives that are often classified as vague are e.g. *speck/specks of* (it is classified as a vague partitive in collocation with: *trouble, knowledge, or nothingness*) (Džupinová, 2013: 34), *handful/handfuls of, shred/shreds of, touch/touches of*, (ibid.: 21, 30, 37, 38.), *a pinch of*, or *a sprinkle of* (Tárnyiková, 2010: 75). The gradient of vague partitives is summarized in Figure 2.

Alternatively, the term ‘pseudopartitives’ may be understood as “expressions referring to an amount/quantity of some (indefinite) substance rather than to a part/subset of a (definite) superset” (Rutkowski, 2007: 337). According to this approach, the partitive construction in a phrase: *a bottle of vodka* should be called pseudo, as the amount of *vodka* is not specified. Contrastively, in the phrase: *a bottle of this vodka*, the construction *a bottle of* is a strict partitive, as the *vodka* is clearly specified by the demonstrative pronoun ‘this’ (ibid.). Similar view on the need for specificity is clear from the examples: *A lot of the delegates* and *A lot of people* (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002: 349). The first nominal oblique, because it is specified, appears in a strict partitive construction, whereas the second oblique in a non-partitive one (ibid.).

‘+ quantity’		‘– quantity’	
Oceans of	Ocean of	A bit of	A pinch of
Seas of	Sea of	A shred of	A sprinkle of
Mountains of	Mountain of	A touch of	
Lots of	Lot of	A trace of	
Loads of	Handful of		
Handfuls of			

**Figure 2: Gradient of vague partitives; based on Tárnayiková, 2010: 75.**

### 3. Material and Method

The material analysed in the present thesis was extracted from the *British National Corpus* (BNC). My aim is to find partitive nouns that co-occur with the selected noncount nouns. I will analyse twelve noncount nouns: six concrete nouns - *salt, meat, wine, ice, underwear, dust* - and six abstract ones - *humour, fun, luck, silence, anger, violence*.

The sequence of words I look for in the BNC is: ‘common noun’ of ‘the particular noncount noun,’ in which the second noun can, but does not need to be, pre-modified. Therefore, the query I will use is: `_NN[1,2] of (_AJ+)*` the selected nominal oblique (=salt/meat/humour/luck...). From the results I will select such common nouns (both singular and plural) which will partition the nominal oblique. The partitives will then be divided into three main groups: quality partition, quantity partition, and ‘units of measurement’<sup>10</sup> (in a metaphoric sense for the abstract noncount nouns). Quantity partitives will be further divided into two categories indicating the type of the partitive: general partitives, and typical partitives. These divisions apply to both concrete and abstract nouns. In addition, the typical partitives are further subcategorized according to their meaning.

The semantic division of typical partitives for abstract nouns is made according to whether they indicate: ‘container’, ‘specific instance’, ‘non-specified small quantity’, ‘non-specified large quantity’, and ‘time relation’. For concrete noncount nouns, the division is different, the groups indicate: ‘container’, ‘shape’, ‘article of substance’, ‘non-specified quantity’, and ‘nouns ending in *-ful(s)/-load(s)*’. Some of the sub-categories are (sometimes loosely) based on those delineated in grammars or research articles. Those are ‘shape’ and ‘container’ (Quirk et al., 1985: 252), ‘nouns ending in *-ful(s)/-loads(s)*’ (Džupinová, 2013: 21), ‘non-specified quantity’ (Tárnyiková, 2010: 75). Others are instinctively added. The ‘time relation’ sub-category will be probably indispensable for the abstract nouns, but it was never really described in the grammatical sources.

Table 2 shows the total numbers of the selected noncount obliques in the BNC. As it is evident, *wine* is the most frequently occurring concrete noncount noun. *Violence* is the most frequent abstract one. The number of hits for *underwear* is very low, it could be therefore expected that it will have the least partitive nouns of all.

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<sup>10</sup> The term and the units of ‘units of measurement’ are taken from the *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English*.

Noncount noun	Number of hits in the BNC	Frequency per million words
<i>Salt</i>	2936	29.86
<i>Meat</i>	3519	35.79
<i>Wine</i>	6052	61.56
<i>Ice</i>	3940	40.08
<i>Underwear</i>	461	4.69
<i>Dust</i>	2448	24.9
<i>Humour</i>	904	21.94
<i>Fun</i>	4994	50.8
<i>Luck</i>	3022	30.74
<i>Silence</i>	5108	51.96
<i>Anger</i>	3663	37.26
<i>Violence</i>	5507	56.01

**Table 2: Total numbers of the selected noncount nouns in the BNC**

The most difficult part of the analysis will be to determine whether the first noun appearing in the *of*-construction is or is not a partitive noun enabling the nominal oblique be count. This is expected to be particularly hard with the typical quantity partitives. The main criterion will be whether they denote certain quantity or duration (with abstracts) of the noncount oblique. In addition, with some of the typical partitive nouns it may be difficult to determine to which semantic category they belong, e.g. whether a partitive belongs to the category of ‘shape’ or ‘article of substance’.

## 4. Analysis

### 4.1 Analysis of the selected noncount nouns

In this part of my thesis I will analyse the twelve selected abstract and concrete noncount nouns: *salt*, *meat*, *wine*, *ice*, *underwear*, *dust*, *humour*, *fun*, *luck*, *silence*, *anger*, and *violence* and their respective partitive nouns.

#### 4.1.1 Concrete noncount nouns

##### 4.1.1.1 SALT

*Salt* co-occurs most frequently with quantity partitives. Quality partitives are rare: *kind(s)* (2 instances), *type* (1 instance), *sort* (1 instance), and also *form* (1 instance).

- (1) *Often there are phosphates, a **sort of salt**, in the urine, which give it a cloudy appearance.*

General quantity partitive nouns that connect with *salt* are *amount(s)* (15 instances), *bit* (6 instances), *lot* (3 instances), and *load* (1 instance).

- (2) *[The plant] tolerates or even prefers a small **amount of salt** in the water.*

*Salt* co-occurs with several ‘units of measurement’, which all indicate weight, namely *tonnes/tons* (4 instances), *kilo* (1 instance), *grams* (1 instance), and *pounds* (1 instance).

Out of the typical quantity partitives, *salt* appears most frequently, in 74 cases, with the partitive noun indicating small ‘non-specified quantity’ *pinch(es)*. As is clear from the examples, *pinch(es)* can be used both in literal (ex. 3) and metaphorical sense (ex. 4), denoting vague, ‘– quantity’. It can also be pre-modified; the modifiers usually relate to size, e.g. *good*, *hefty*, *slight*, *generous*, *large*, *small*, *3-finger*.

- (3) *Add the peppercorns, nutmeg and a good **pinch of salt**.*

- (4) *Ted Parsons's story involved a submarine's wrecking, but no doubt the Germans — if not the Italians — took this with some hefty **pinches of salt**.*

The typical quantity partitives occurring with *salt* are summarized in Table 3. The most frequent ‘container’ partitive is *bags*, occurring three times with *salt*, only in the plural form. All the three partitives are used literally, e.g. *‘That's them,’ said Betty, picking up little **bags of salt**, pepper and sugar....*

The partitive noun *grain(s)* in the literal meaning can be classified to the subcategory of ‘article of substance’<sup>11</sup>, mainly when it occurs in singular: *If an atom were to be magnified to 100 metres diameter, the size of a large concert hall, then the nucleus in its centre would be about the size of a **grain of salt***. Otherwise, mainly in plural, *grain(s)* more likely belongs to the category of ‘non-specified quantity’ denoting small amount. Moreover, the ‘shape’ indicators can be divided to those that denote a larger formation, i.e. *pillar, blocks, piles*, and quite specific *bars* and to those that give a definite form, i.e. *crystal(s)*. In all three cases, when the partitive noun *crystal(s)* was used in singular, the noncount oblique is pre-modified by the adjective *common*.

Partitive nouns ending in *-ful(s)/-load(s)* can be, in the case of *salt*, divided into those indicating cutlery, i.e. *spoonfuls and teaspoonfuls* (ex. 5), and those indicating some sort of a ‘human measurement’ (ex. 6).

(5) *Put plenty of crushed ice in the large container and [...] stir in several **spoonfuls of salt**.*

(6) *Omar was infinitely patient, humouring the rambling dotard with **handfuls of salt**, sugar and empty tins.*

SALT									
Container		Shape		-ful(s)/-load(s) Ending		Article of substance		Non-specified quantity	
Bags	3	Pillar	5	Handful(s)	6	Grain	3	Pinch(es)	74
Bowl	2	Blocks	4	Fistful	2			Teaspoon(s)	11
Cup	1	Crystal(s)	4	Spoonfuls	1			Tablespoon	5
Barrels	1	Bars	1	Teaspoonfuls	1			Grain(s)	3
Box	1	Line	1					Dessertspoon	1
Bucket	1	Piles	1					Hint	1
Sachet	1							Spoons	1
Tubs	1							Trickle	1

Table 3: Typical quantity partitives of *salt*

#### 4.1.1.2 MEAT

Most commonly, *meat* appears with a partitive noun indicating general quantity *piece(s)* (61 instances):

(7) *She popped in the last **piece of meat** and biscuit, and chewed it fiercely.*

(8) *Will they eat dead insects or **pieces of meat**?*

<sup>11</sup> Alternatively, literal *grain(s)* could be classified as a partitive denoting ‘shape’

In the majority of instances, *piece(s)* is used literally. Metaphorically, it is usually used in the fixed expression ‘we are not a piece of meat’, i.e. weak. The usual modifier of the nominal oblique *meat* is the adjective *raw*.

Other general partitives connecting with *meat* are: *bit(s)* (14 instances), *lot* (11 instances), *amount* (10 instances), *deal* (2 instances) and *loads* (1 instance).

- (9) *You will need to turn the ham over twice during carving to remove the maximum **amount of meat**.*

‘Units of measurement’ are variable, as *meat* is frequently weighted in e.g. shops, or in the kitchen. The partitives are: *pound(s)* (6 instances), *tons/tonnes* (6 instances), *kilo(s)* (4 instances), *ounces* (2 instances), *lbs* (1 instance), and *grams* (1 instance). The ‘units of measurement’ for *meat* range from very small weight (*grams*) to very large (*tons/tonnes*).

- (10) *Each American consumes 26,000,000 tons of water, 21,000 gallons of gasoline, 10,150 **pounds of meat** [...] in her or his lifetime.*

The typical quantity partitives that connect with *meat* are summarized in Table 4.

MEAT									
Container		Shape		-ful(s)/-load(s) Ending		Article of substance		Non-specified quantity	
Tin(s)	5	Fillets	1	Barrowloads	1	Cut(s)	20	Scrap	5
Bowl	3	Flakes	1	Basketloads	1	Lump(s)	14	Hunk(s)	4
Cans	2	Globules	1	Forkful	1	Slice(s)	10	Fragment	1
Bag	1	Piles	1	Lorryloads	1	Chunk(s)	9	Morsel	1
Packs	1							Sliver	1
Packets	1							Speck	1
Pots	1								

**Table 4: Typical quantity partitives of *meat***

The most varied subcategory is ‘container’; however, the most frequent one are ‘article of substance’ partitives.

- (11) *He reminded himself to include food for the cat: several **tins of meat** and a couple of bottles of fresh milk.*
- (12) *The gaoler returned hours later with a cup of brackish water, a **bowl of badly-cooked meat** and hard, stale bread.*

Each of the partitive nouns ending in *-ful(s)/-load(s)* appear only once in the corpus. *Forkful* is the only one with *-ful* ending and the only one in singular; these partitives are used literally,

e.g. *This pie had nearly gone bad and four **barrowloads of meat** had to be quietly carted away.*

The category ‘article of substance’ overlaps to some extent with the ‘non-specified quantity’, e.g. the partitive *chunk(s)* is defined as a) “a thick solid piece that has been cut or broken off something” (favouring the ‘article of substance’ interpretation), or b) “a fairly large amount of something”<sup>12</sup> (i.e. ‘non-specified quantity’). The classification is based on the context in which the partitives are used. *Chunk(s)* also appear more frequently in plural (7 instances) than in singular (2 instances). On the contrary, quite similar *lump(s)* have an even distribution between singular and plural forms (7 : 7 instances). The most frequent typical partitive (20 instances, 16 of them in plural) is *cut(s)*, which belongs to the subcategory of ‘article of substance’. Both the partitive and the oblique noun can be modified (ex. 13).

- (13) *Use fish or chicken more often, or the **leaner cuts of red meat**.*

*Slice(s)* is often mentioned by grammars as a prototypical typical partitive for *meat* (cf. 2.3.1.2), although it is clear from Table 4, it is not used as frequently as other partitives. Lastly, the category of ‘non-specified quantity’ contains two semantic groups of partitives. The first group indicates (very) small quantity, e.g. *scrap*, *morsel*, or *sliver*. The second one consists of only one representative, *hunk(s)*, which indicates larger quantity.

- (14) *The male got up first, and wrapped his lantern jaws around a **hunk of meat***

#### 4.1.1.3 WINE

The noun *wine* appears with the standard set of general quantity partitives: *lot* (9 instances), *amount(s)* (7 instances), *bit* (4 instances), *piece* (2 instances), *deal* (2 instances), and *load* (1 instance).

- (15) *She drank a **lot of wine** for a small girl, and enjoyed it.*

- (16) *Like all good scientists, he knew that one should not rush experiments, so a great **deal of Italian red wine** and a good few Sambucas were consumed [...]*

In both instances, *deal* was pre-modified by the adjective *great*. Generally, *great* is the most frequent adjective pre-modifying *deal* in the excerpts.

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<sup>12</sup> Cf. *Chunk*: <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/chunk?q=chunk> [Last accessed 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2017]



Quality partitives attested for *wine* are: *type* (6 instances), *sort* (4 instances), *kind(s)* (4 instances), and *form* (2 instances). The nominal oblique *wine* was pre-modified in only one instance with a *sort* partitive (ex. 17).

- (17) *The Swedish embassy says: ‘It is [Glogg] a **sort of mulled wine** with schnapps and spices like cinnamon and cardamom, plus almonds and raisins’.*

*Wine* also appears as a nominal oblique with ‘units of measurement’ partitives, such as *litre(s)* (10 instances) *gallons* (2 instances), and with an indicator of weight *ounces* (1 instance).

- (18) *One ounce [of alcohol] was equivalent to (a) one 12 ounce can of beer, (b) one ounce (30 cc) of spirits, or (c) four **ounces of wine**.*

The noun *wine* appears most frequently in a partitive construction with typical quantity partitives denoting a ‘container’. The partitives are summarized in Table 5.

‘CONTAINER’ – WINE					
Bottle(s)	415	Flagon(s)	4	Cauldron	1
Glass(es)	335	Barrels	3	Decanters	1
Cup(s)	42	Box(es)	3	Packet	1
Jug(s)	18	Can	2	Pipes	1
Case(s)	15	Crate	2	Tureens	1
Goblet(s)	14	Jar	2		
Carafe	9	Tumbler	2		
Cask(s)	5	Bucket	1		
Flask(s)	5	Butt	1		

**Table 5: Typical quantity partitives of *wine* denoting ‘container’**

*Wine* connects with a wide range of containers from those in which it is stored (e.g. *bottle*, *barrels*, or *butt*) to those in which it may be served (e.g. *glass(s)*, or *cup(s)*). Further, there are larger containers that store other, smaller containers, e.g. *box(es)*, *case(s)*, or *crate*. The most frequent ‘container’ partitive noun for *wine* is *bottle(s)*, which is attested 415 times (ex 19). Out of the 415 appearances, only 73 times is the partitive *bottle(s)* in plural. The oblique noun can be further modified (e.g. by *sparkling*, *red*, or *white*).

- (19) *Honeymoon and silver anniversary couples receive a **bottle of sparkling wine** and flowers or fruit.*

Other typical quantity partitives, i.e. ‘nouns ending in *-ful(s)/-load(s)*’, ‘article of substance’, and ‘non-specified quantity’ are summarized in Table 6.<sup>13</sup>

WINE					
<i>-ful(s)/-load(s)</i> ending		Article of substance		Non-specified quantity	
Mouthful(s)	8	Drop(s)	11	Sip	23
Skinful	1			Gulp(s)	4
				River	3
				Slurp	2
				Swig	2
				Tablespoon	2
				Draught	1
				Lakes	1
				Lashings of	1
				Mite of	1
				Pool	1
				Puddle	1
				Shots	1

**Table 6: Typical quantity partitives of *wine***

The most frequent is *sip*, occurring 23 times. Similar semantic partitives such as *gulp(s)*, *slurp*, or *swig* are also used more than once. The rest of the partitives in this subcategory can be divided to those indicating: (natural) water areas, e.g. *river*, or *pool*; cutlery: *tablespoon*; and a minute/enormous quantity, i.e. *mite*, or *lashings*.

(20) *He took a **sip of wine**, studying Merrill smilingly.*

(21) *The boozy cook got the trots after a late night meal of undercooked seafood washed down by **lashings of wine**.*

The representation in other semantic groups described in Table 6 is quite sporadic. There is only one ‘article’ of *wine*: *drop(s)*. *Mouthful* appears both in singular and plural, the singular form is more common (6/8 instances).

(22) *Instead, he took another **mouthful of red wine**, inspecting the rich ruby liquid through lidded, thoughtful eyes.*

#### 4.1.1.4 ICE

*Ice* co-occurs with quite a wide range of general quantity partitives: *piece(s)* (10 instances), *amount(s)* (3 instances), *bit(s)* (2 instances), *deal* (2 instances), *masses* (2 instances), *lot* (1 instance), and *loads* (1 instance).

<sup>13</sup> No partitives denoting ‘shape’ were attested in the excerpt.

- (23) *Often it can take a little while to melt down the **pieces of ice** to make drinking water.*

*Ice* is pre-modified in a general partitive construction only once when it appears with *deal*.

- (24) *It would be less at the equator (perhaps half a degree) and more at the poles perhaps six degrees; certainly enough to melt a great **deal of polar ice**.*

There is only one quality partitive that connects with *ice*: *forms* (1 instance).

- (25) *Another intriguing aspect of water is its ability to form different crystal patterns, such as the different crystal **forms of ice** and snow.*

The nominal oblique *ice* co-occurs with two types of ‘units of measurement’: a) those indicating length: *inches*, and *centimetre*; b) those indicating weight or volume: *tonnes/tons*, or *gallons*. *Inches* is determined either by numerals or numeric expressions (*many*).

- (26) *Mick called off his club's Open on the Coventry Canal due to four **inches of ice**.*

Typical partitives of *ice* are summarized in Table 7.

ICE									
Container		Shape		-ful(s)/-load(s) Ending		Article of substance		Non-specified quantity	
Bucket(s)	6	Block(s)	25	Bucketful	1	Lump(s)	16	Sliver(s)	6
Bowl(s)	4	Scoop(s)	4	Handful	1	Chunks	4	Chips <sup>14</sup>	5
Bag(s)	2	Cube(s)	3			Splinter	3	Mountain	2
Cup	1	Shard(s)	3			Drop(s)	2	River	2
Pack	1	Ball	1			Bead	1	Clouds	1
Packet	1	Lozenge	1			Crystals	1	Cluster	1
		Piles	1					Gobs	1
		Swathe	1					Gobbets	1
								Masses	1
								Sea	1

**Table 7: Typical quantity partitives of *ice***

*Ice* connects with partitives denoting both small ‘non-specified quantity’ (e.g. *sliver(s)*, *gobs*, or *gobbets*) and large ‘non-specified quantity’ (e.g. *mountain*, *clouds*, or *sea*).

<sup>14</sup> The boundary between the subcategory of ‘shape’, ‘article of substance’, and ‘non-specified quantity’ is with some partitives (e.g. *chips*, *shard(s)*, *crystals*) very hazy. In some cases, it is therefore possible to categorize those partitives in a different way, according to the context.

- (27) *His voice was a **sliver of ice**, a whiplash across her quivering senses.*

The ‘container’ partitives denote either closed or open containers: *bag*, *pack*, and *packet*; *bucket(s)*, *bowl(s)*, and *cup*.

- (28) *He looked at her uncomprehendingly. Sheridan wasn't a great one for jokes. I fetched a **bag of ice** and a bowl from the kitchen, swayed back to the bar and in due course took the **bowl of ice** (on a tray) to the saloon.*

There are only two partitives with *-ful(s)* ending: *bucketful*, and *handful*. The most frequent ‘shape’ partitive is *block(s)*, appearing in 25 instances; the most common ‘article of substance’ is *lump(s)* (16 instances).

- (29) *The zinc-lined drawers held **lumps of ice** delivered weekly by the fishmonger.*

#### 4.1.1.5 UNDERWEAR

*Underwear* is the least frequent noncount noun of the whole set. In the nominal *of*-construction it appears only 45 times. The most frequent partitive of *underwear* is *set(s)* (a typical ‘article of substance’ partitive, connecting with it in 10 instances).

- (30) *I'll happily wait for birthdays, Christmases and my **set of matching underwear!***

General partitives that connect with *underwear* are: *item(s)* (2 instances), *bits* (1 instance), and *piece* (1 instance).

- (31) *Vitor smiled the slow crooked smile which had once had his female fans attempting to push their telephone numbers — sometimes accompanied by intimate **items of underwear** — into his hand.*

*Item(s)* and *bits* are pre-modified, whereas *piece* may be post-modified: [...] *a **piece of underwear** that I had certainly never seen before.*

Three quality partitives occur with *underwear*: *type(s)* (2 instances), *sort* (1 instance), and *kind* (1 instance). The nominal oblique is never pre-modified in these constructions.

- (32) *I wonder what **kind of underwear** he would go for. You can't miss with black lace [...]*

Table 8 summarizes all the typical quantity partitives that make *underwear* count.

UNDERWEAR					
Shape		-ful(s)/-load(s) ending		Article of substance	
Pile	1	Handful	1	Set(s)	10
		Lorryload	1	Collection	2
				Articles	1

**Table 8: Typical quantity partitives of *underwear***

Out of the typical partitives, *underwear* co-occurs only with ‘nouns ending in -ful(s)/-load(s)’, and nouns denoting ‘shape’ or ‘article of substance’. The nominal oblique does not connect with partitives denoting ‘container’ or ‘non-specified quantity’, (although my expectation was that they would appear with ‘container’ partitives such as *bag*, or *basket*). The only shape-type partitive that combines with *underwear* in the samples is *pile* (ex. 33). The noun *underwear* co-occurs with two ‘nouns ending in -ful(s)/-load(s)’: *Martha's school dress and books, her one skirt, two blouses and **handful of frayed underwear***. Most of the typical partitives belong to the sub-category of ‘article of substance’. It is the already mentioned *set(s)* and, in addition, *collection*, and *articles*.

- (33) *Kattina was anything but tidy, and she found what she was looking for under a **pile of underwear**.*

Adjectives that pre-modify the nominal oblique never repeat and are quite spare, e.g. *matching, dirty, thermal, or warm*.

#### 4.1.1.6 DUST

The most frequent partitive of *dust* is a typical quantity partitive *cloud(s)*, which appears with it in 97 instances.

- (34) *Julius brought the car to an abrupt halt, a **cloud of dust** gently rising up behind them.*
- (35) *She could see nothing through the thick **clouds of dust** that choked her.*

It connects with four general quantity partitives: *lot* (7 instances), *bit* (6 instances), *amount* (4 instances), and *loads* (1 instance).

- (36) *They look rather sickly and there is rather a **lot of black dust** on the leaves and fruits.*

*Dust* was found to co-occur with four quality partitives: *kind* (2 instances), *form* (2 instances), *sort* (1 instances), and *type* (1 instance).

(37) *The whole house smelled of it, of lost youth shrivelled up into a **kind of dust**.*

‘Units of measurement’ which appear with *dust* are: *gram*, indicating weight (1 instance), and *millimetres*, indicating length (1 instance).

(38) *A Department of Environment spokesman said that 1 **gram of radioactive dust** had been released.*

Typical quantity partitives of *dust* are summarized according to their semantic subcategories in Table 9.

DUST							
Shape		-ful(s)/-load(s) ending		Article of substance		Non-specified quantity	
Cloud(s)	97	Handful	4	Particle(s)	12	Speck(s)	19
Swirl(s)	6	Bucketfuls	1	Grain(s)	3	Smudge(s)	2
Column	3					Flecks	1
Heap	3					Fraction	1
Pile	3					Hint	1
Puffs	3					Mounds	1
Plume	2					Scrap	1
Patch	1						
Rings	1						
Scoops	1						
Stack	1						
Stripes	1						

**Table 9: Typical quantity partitives of *dust***

*Dust* does not connect with any typical ‘container’ partitives. On the other hand, most frequently, *dust* co-occurs with typical partitives denoting ‘shape’, e.g. *heap*, or *pile*. In comparison with *cloud(s)*, the rest of the ‘shape’ partitives are only sporadic.

(39) *Soon after I had moved off, a massive **column of dust** appeared in the east, headed by a battered green lorry.*

*Dust* can be understood both literally (ex. 39) or metaphorically in these constructions, e.g. *a moving heap of human dust*.

*Speck(s)* is the most frequent ‘non-specified quantity’ partitive denoting small amount. It is the classical grammar example of a typical partitive of *dust* given e.g. by Quirk et al. (cf. 2.3.1.2), although it is not the most frequent one. Other partitives from this category are e.g. *smudge(s)*, or *mounds*.

(40) *Among orange **mounds of dust** and evil black pools the sawyers squatted.*

Unlike with the (ex. 39), where the adjective *massive* truly modifies the partitive *column*, the adjective *orange* (ex. 40) rather modifies the appearance, i.e. the colour of *dust*, rather than the appearance of *mounds*. Thus, even though it stands before the partitive noun, *orange* more appropriately relates to the nominal oblique. *Dust* is once pre-modified by *grey*, in the construction with *smudges*, but it was never pre-modified with partitives indicating ‘article of substance’. The construction *handful of dust* refers to a title of a book by Evelyn Waugh in two instances.

- (41) ...so was Tony Last in Evelyn Waugh's *A **Handful of Dust*** (1934).

#### 4.1.2 Abstract noncount nouns

##### 4.1.2.1 HUMOUR

*Humour* does not appear at all with ‘units of measurement’. However, it appears quite often with general quantity partitives such as *bit(s)* (9 instances), *lot* (6 instances), *amount(s)* (3 instances), *element(s)* (3 instances), *piece* (1 instance), and *deal* (1 instance):

- (42) *Gone are all the huge, colourful posters which used to brighten city walls and inject a **bit of humour** at election time.*
- (43) *One of the brown immigrants deliberately poured some of his coffee over the pale slab of sugar crusted fruit pie he was eating, and this was thought to be a brilliant **piece of improvised humour**.*

The partitive noun and the noncount oblique may be both modified by different adjectives at the same time. Sometimes, the adjectives modifying the partitive noun and the noncount oblique are the same, e.g. *a good deal of good humour*.

*Humour* combines with a standard set of quality partitives, i.e. *kind* (7 instances), *sort* (6 instances), *form* (2 instances), and *types* (1 instance). In addition, it appears in a construction with more atypical *brand* (12 instances), which is the most frequent quality partitive for *humour* (ex. 44).

- (44) *It had been Frankie's Howerd's wish to entertain specialist audiences, like the Fire Service, for some years with his own **brand of sizzling humour**.*

Finally, typical quantity partitives for *humour* form the largest category of quantity partition. The partitives are summarized according to their semantic sub-categories in Table 10.

HUMOUR					
Specific instance		Non-spec. small quant.		Time related	
Flash(es)	11	Touch(es)	16	Moments	2
Glint	2	Hint	5	Evening	1
Flicker	2	Snippets	2	Years	1
Burst	1	Dash	1		
Lumps	1	Grain	1		
Spark	1	Jot	1		
Stroke	1	Slice	1		
		Streak	1		
		Whiff	1		

**Table 10: Typical quantity partitives of *humour***

*Humour* appears neither in construction with ‘container’-type typical partitives, nor with partitives indicating ‘non-specified large quantity’. ‘Time related’ partitives are represented by three partitives only; two of them, *years* and *evening*, are more concrete and appear only once in the corpus, whereas *moments* (2 instances) has more general meaning. The noncount oblique is in both cases pre-modified: *moments of grim/black humour*. *Years of humour* is used as a title for a chapter and is determined by a numeral, i.e. *63 years of humour*. The most frequently occurring category is ‘non-specified small quantity’, which comprises the most frequent typical partitive for *humour*, *touch(es)*, which is attested 16 times in singular and plural form combined in the corpus:

(45) *Add a **touch of humour** to the first chapter.*

(46) *There were other **touches of Irish humour** and charm from the tour.*

The most prominent representative of the category of ‘specific instance’ is *flash(es)*, appearing 11 times. The other partitives are less frequent. All the ‘specific instance’ partitives are quite similar in their sense, meaning a momentary, short occurrence, e.g. *glint*, *flicker*:

(47) *I don't bite, you know!’ he told her, a **glint of humour** momentarily lighting his face.*

#### 4.1.2.2 FUN

The most frequent partitive nouns of *fun* belong to the category of general quantity partition: *lot* (104 instances), *bit* (100 instances), *deal* (12 instances), *amount* (4 instances), *load(s)* (5 instances), *element* (2 instances), and *piece* (1 instance).



(48) ...thrashing out ‘Mainly Mornings’ and ‘Hammer’ like men who are having **a lot of bloody good fun**.

(49) The works of Léger and Corb have, on occasion, a great **deal of fun** in them.

Even though *lot* is the most frequent partitive of *fun*, the nominal oblique in this construction is pre-modified only twice (ex. 49 and by the adjective *visual*); with *bit* it is pre-modified six times (five times by *harmless*, and once by *kinky*). Unlike *lot* and *bit*, which are seldom pre-modified, *deal* is in all instances modified (11 times by *great* and once by *good*).

*Fun* does not connect at all with the ‘units of measurement’; however, it appears in the construction with three quality partitives: *kind* (3 instances), *sort* (3 instances), and *form(s)* (3 instances). In comparison with general partitives, the frequency of these partitives is much lower.

(50) All would be aware of the difficulty of finding ideologically acceptable **forms of fun**.

The quality partitives are all pre-modified or determined. The typical quantity partitives of *fun* are summarized in Table 11.

FUN							
Specific instance		Non-spec. small quantity		Non-spec. large quantity		Time related	
Blast	1	Drop <sup>15</sup>	1	Dose	1	Hour(s)	14
				Heap	1	Day(s)	4
				Mountains	1	Evening	4
				Sack-loads	1	Night	4
						Years	2
						Fortnight	1
						Moment	1
						Summer	1

Table 11: Typical quantity partitives of *fun*

*Fun* does not appear at all with the partitives denoting ‘container’. The subcategory of ‘time related’ partitives contains the widest range of partitives, such as *hour(s)*, *day(s)*, or *moment*.

(51) So much for that fleeting little **moment of innocent fun**.

As is shown in ex. (51), both the partitive noun and the nominal oblique can be pre-modified; with all the other ‘time related’ partitives only one of the construction constituents is pre-modified.

<sup>15</sup> Alternatively, it could be placed into the category of ‘specific instance’.

*Fun* connects only with large ‘non-specified quantity’ partitives, not with the semantically small ones. This is further supported by two of the partitives being attested only in plural: *sack-loads*<sup>16</sup> and *mountains*. All the ‘non-specified large’ partitives are meant metaphorically, and are therefore quite vague in regard to the actual quantity (ex. 52). Neither the partitive noun nor *fun* are pre-modified in these constructions.

- (52) *ENJOY a great day out at Thorpe Park, Britain's favourite leisure park, with **mountains of fun** for all the family.*

Lastly, *fun* combines with two typical partitives semantically denoting ‘specific instance’; each appears with this nominal oblique only once and in singular.

- (53) *Seduced by their own success, the Sultans stay on to wring one more **blast of good clean fun** out of ‘Are You Experienced’ and finally leave.*

As the above examples illustrate, *fun* may appear without modification as well as with simple or multiple modifiers.

#### 4.1.2.3 LUCK

*Luck* appears with quite a wide variety (of both singular and plural) general quantity partitives: *bit(s)* (126 instances), *piece(s)* (15 instances), *amount* (12 instances), *lot* (13 instances), *element* (9 instances) and *deal* (4 instances).

*Bit(s)* is the most frequent of all the partitives that co-occur with *luck*; out of the 126 instances of *bit(s)*, 124 are in singular. When *bit(s)* is modified it is usually by *little*. If *luck* is pre-modified in these general constructions, it is mostly by adjectives *bad* and *good*. Only the adjective *good* appears with *amount* and *lot*; conversely, *bad* is an (almost) exclusive modifier of *luck* with the partitive *bit(s)*. *Piece(s)* co-occurs both with *bad* and *good luck* (2 : 1).

- (54) *‘**Bit of bad luck** the horse won, if you see what I mean, sir.’*  
 (55) *...clearly the leaders of the DCAC were aware of the large **amount of good luck**, as well as careful planning, which had enabled them to avoid any major violent incidents.*

*Luck* connects, similarly to other abstract noncount nouns, with three quality partitives: *kind* (4 instances), *sort* (2 instances), and *form* (1 instance). Only with *kind* is *luck* pre-modified by an adjective (ex. 56).

<sup>16</sup> *Sack-loads* could be alternatively assigned to the sub-category of concrete noncount nouns, ‘nouns ending in *-ful(s)/-load(s)*’.

- (56) *'You shouldn't say things like that to a girl who's had my **kind of 'ard luck** '*

*Luck* co-occurs with one 'unit of measurement', *ounce*. The meaning is metaphorical:

- (57) *AN **OUNCE of luck** is always welcome in racing and I have to admit that I feel the most fortunate man [...] having been asked to ride Docklands Express.*

It is possible to paraphrase it as *a bit*, or *a piece* in this context. The partitives belonging to the category of typical quantity partition are summed up in Table 12 below.

LUCK							
Specific instance		Non-spec. small quant.		Non-spec. large quant.		Time related	
Stroke(s)	45	Speck	5	Run	15	Years	2
Blow	1	Modicum	4	Slice(s)	6	Days	1
Strike	1	Touch	3	Dollop	1		
		Smattering	1				

**Table 12: Typical quantity partitives of *luck***

Both the 'time related' partitives indicate rather a longer period of *luck*, as indicated by a numeral (ex. 58) or quantifier, or merely by the plural form of the partitives (ex. 59).

- (58) *She would continue to define her ex-husband as diminishingly efficient, and he would go on seeing himself as an ill-equipped buffoon who had stumbled into six **years of brazen luck**.*

- (59) *But those **days of luck** have passed*

The nominal oblique appears in constructions with small 'non-specified quantity' partitives (*speck*<sup>17</sup>, *modicum*, *touch*) more often than with the large ones. The noun *modicum* is a partitive noun only for *luck*; it does not connect with any of the other selected noncount nouns.<sup>18</sup>

- (60) *Tyrion is even capable of slaying a greater daemon given a **modicum of luck**.*

The only 'non-specified' large partitive is *dollop*. The entry comes from a running commentary of a football match in the Independent. The interpretation of *dollop* as denoting a

<sup>17</sup> The higher frequency of the partitive *speck* is due to its occurrence in a song (all 5 instances: *Five little speckled frogs had not a speck of luck...*).

<sup>18</sup> *Modicum* is attested (at least twice) in the BNC in partitive constructions with the nouns *luck*, *knowledge*, *skill*, *comfort*, *power*, *privacy*, *success*, *training*, *restraint*.

large size is based on context; the partitive expresses merely “an amount of something”<sup>19</sup> The subcategory of ‘specific instance’ contains the widest range of partitives, including the most frequent typical partitive *stroke(s)*. The partitive use of *run* may be quite disputable; the examples from the corpus, however, seem to indicate that *run* can be taken as a partitive noun denoting a series of instances of *luck* (i.e. a large quantity). *Luck* in this construction is modified by polar adjectives *good* and *bad*, but the negative evaluation is predominant (10:1).<sup>20</sup>

- (61) *Perhaps the constable who carried out the test was merely having a **run of bad luck**.*

#### 4.1.2.4 SILENCE

In the BNC there are only three general quantity partitives of *silence*, all infrequent: *bit* (1 instance), *elements* (1 instance), and *lot* (1 instance).

- (62) *That left a **lot of silence** to fill, and Miles filled it with fear and guilt.*

Quality partitives comprise: *kind* (7 instances), *type(s)* (2 instances), and *sort* (2 instances).

- (63) *She stared at me in a **kind of shocked silence** and then gradually withdrew into the shadows...*

*Miles* is the only ‘unit of measurement’ partitive of *silence*; although it is normally a measurement of distance, it could be said to also measure time in this situation.

- (64) *His deep voice after **miles of silence** made Isabel jump.*

The typical quantity partitives which co-occur with *silence* are summarized in Table 13.

<sup>19</sup> Cf. *Dollop*: <http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/dollop?q=dollop> (Accessed 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017)

<sup>20</sup> Partitive constructions comprising *bad luck* are more frequent in the corpus than those comprising *good luck* (cf. *bit*, *run*, *stroke(s)*, *piece*, *touch*, *slices of bad luck* (26 instances); *amount*, *run*, *modicum*, *smattering*, *piece*, *lot of good luck* (6 instances)).

SILENCE					
Specific instance		Non-spec. large quantity		Time related	
Case	1	Pool	3	Moment(s)	51
Flashes	1			Period(s)	17
Rush	1			Minute(s)	8
				Years	8
				Second(s)	6
				Months	3
				Centuries	2
				Decades	2
				Hour(s)	2
				Weeks	2
				Afternoon	1
				Day	1
				Eternity	1
				Interval	1
				Passages	1
				Summer	1
				Weekend	1

**Table 13: Typical quantity partitives of *silence***

The partitives can be semantically divided to only three subcategories: ‘concrete substance’, ‘non-specified large quantity’ and ‘time related’ partitives. The most numerous and varied group of ‘time related’ partitives can be further divided to those indicating longer span of *silence*, e.g. *decades*, *centuries*, *years*, or *months* (ex. 65); to those denoting, in comparison, minute periods of time, e.g. *hour(s)*, *minute(s)*, or *second(s)* (ex. 66); and to those general in meaning, e.g. *moment(s)*, and *period(s)* (ex. 67).

(65) *BREAKING two **decades of silence** in the Soviet media, one of Russia's most distinguished writers has denounced the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 as ‘collective murder’.*

(66) *Two **seconds of silence** ticked by.*

(67) *A short **moment of silence**. Then the TRAGEDIANS start to applaud with genuine admiration.*

Whereas *moment* in singular connects mostly with adjectives indicating time-length of the *silence* (e.g. *short*, *long*, *brief*, etc), in plural the most frequent modifier is *a few*. It could be also said that plural form of the ‘time related’ partitives intensifies the time span. Partitives describing ‘specific instance’ of *silence* are few (ex. 68).

(68) *There were some gorgeous **flashes of silence**.*

The only representative of ‘non-specified large quantity’ subcategory is metaphorical *pool*.

- (69) *In the **pool of silence** which fell between them Laura raised her eyes and took her first good, clear look at the man she had married.*

#### 4.1.2.5 ANGER

There are four general quantity partitives that connect with *anger*: *lot* (6 instances), *deal* (5 instances), *bit* (2 instances), and *element* (1 instance). Unlike *lot*, which is never pre-modified, *deal* is always modified by *great* (ex. 70) and *bit* by *little*.

- (70) *At a recent conference for teachers, a great **deal of anger** was expressed about a DES circular.*

Two quality partitives connect with this nominal oblique: *kind* (4 instances), and *forms* (1 instance).

- (71) *Gurder was in the grip of the **kind of anger** that is almost as good as armour.*

*Anger* does not collocate with ‘units of measurement’. Partitive nouns denoting ‘container’, ‘non-specified small quantity’ and ‘time relation’ that enable *anger* to appear as count are summed up in Table 14.

ANGER						
Container		Non-spec. small quant.			Time related	
Cauldron	1	Hint	3		Time(s)	3
					Moment	2
					Day	1

**Table 14: Typical quantity partitives of *anger***

*Cauldron* is the only ‘container’ partitive of *anger*; both are in the construction modified:

- (72) *So little irritations get filed away instead of being openly expressed and before long a boiling **cauldron of repressed anger** has extinguished their sexual fire.*

There are two rather general ‘time related’ partitives and one concrete one, *day*.

- (73) *...she couldn't prevent an irrational **moment of anger** with Dmitri for being sterile.*

In this example, the modifier, *irrational*, is placed in front of the partitive noun, but it rather modifies the nominal oblique.

The rest of the typical quantity partitives fall into the semantic subcategory denoting ‘specific instance’. These are compiled in Table 15.

‘Specific instance’ partitives – ANGER							
Expression(s)	18	Wave	8	Flush	4	Frenzy	2
Surge(s)	17	Burst(s)	7	Rush	4	Tide	2
Flash(es)	11	Fit(s)	4	Blaze	3	Act	1
Outburst(s)	11	Flame	4	Spurt	3	Flick	1
Explosion(s)	9	Flare	4	Bouts	2	Flood	1

**Table 15: Typical quantity partitives of *anger* denoting ‘specific instance’**

All the ‘specific instance’ partitives seem to indicate usually a quite aggressive feeling, which suddenly sparks up. The plural form quite often indicates a repetitive occurrence of the feelings at different times rather than a greater amount at one moment.

- (74) *She gets these **surges of anger** now and then, against injustice and evil and so on.*

There appear more neutral partitives, such as *expression* and *act*, as well as more emotionally charged ones, such as *outburst(s)*, *flame*, or *blaze*. *Anger* is only sporadically pre-modified, and does not have its own prototypical modifier (like e.g. *bad/good luck*).

The category of ‘specific instance’ partitives also includes nouns indicating “water movement”, i.e. *tide*, *flood* and *wave* (ex. 75).

- (75) *His humiliation and fear were washed away by a **tide of anger**, at this open display of contempt.*

#### 4.1.2.6 VIOLENCE

*Violence*, of all the selected noncount nouns, appears most often in a nominal *of*-construction. It has a very wide selection of general quantity partitives: *lot* (7 instances), *amount* (6 instances), *bit* (2 instances), *element* (2 instances), *piece* (1 instance), *loads* (1 instance), and *items* (1 instance). The nominal oblique may be in the *of*-construction pre-modified.

- (76) *There has been a significant increase in the **amount of sexual violence** reported to the police.*

The general partitive *items* appears with only two selected nominal obliques, i.e. *violence* and *underwear* and its frequency is very low.

- (77) *Third, the less ‘verbish’ the verbs in the poem are, the greater their lexical power [...] the more powerful, and less ‘verbish’, words are ‘items of violence’, such as ‘staggering’.*

*Violence* connects with all the standard quality partitives: *kind(s)* (22 instances), *type(s)* (9 instances), *sort* (4 instances), and *form(s)* (2 instances).

- (78) *The long-term psychological effects of this **kind of violence** can be devastating.*

*Yards* is the only partitive denoting ‘units of measurement’; the meaning is metaphorical and vague, and could be substituted by e.g. *loads*.

- (79) *‘The Last Of The Mohicans’ has romance and Lewis’ bare torso for the girls [and] **yards of bloody violence** for the yobs.*

Table 16 sums up the typical quantity partitives which combine with *violence*.

VIOLENCE									
Container		Specific instance		Non-spec. small quant.		Non-spec. large quant.		Time related	
Bags	1	Act(s)	90	Touch	1	Spate	2	Years	8
		Outbreak(s)	49					Day(s)	7
		Incident(s)	26					Night(s)	7
		Wave	15					Week(s)	5
		Scene(s)	10					Weekend	4
		Upsurge	8					Moment(s)	3
		Cases	6					Months	3
		Incidence	6					Period(s)	3
		Outburst	5					Time	3
		Tide	5					Century	2
		Episode(s)	2					Decade(s)	2
		Occasion	2					Season	1
		Blasts	1					Summer	1
		Eruption	1						
		Explosions	1						
		Flare	1						
		Spasms	1						
		Surge	1						

**Table 16: Typical quantity partitives of *violence***

The most common typical partitive nouns are ‘specific instance’ partitives. *Act(s)* is the most frequent typical partitive, as well as the most frequent partitive of *violence* in general. There appears similar set of partitives e.g. *surge*, *flare* or *blast* as with *anger*. Again, the



partitives can be divided to more general ones (e.g. *incident(s)*, or *cases*) and more expressive ones (e.g. *explosions*, or *(up)surge*).

- (80)        *...in a town which was untouched by Egypt's year-long **surge of political violence** until gunmen shot dead a policeman outside a church 10 days ago.*

The metaphorical *bags* is the only ‘container’ partitive. It denotes very vague ‘+ quantity’; it could be substituted by the general vague partitive *load*.

- (81)        *Robocop and Total Recall had **bags of violence** but very little sex...*

Most of the ‘time related’ partitives are in plural. Most of them indicate a longer period of time. *Years*, even though it appears only in the plural form, is the most frequent.

- (82)        *As Kashmir gets a new governor, Rahul Bedi looks at the way three **years of violence** has affected the lives of people in the troubled state.*

## 5. Conclusions

The analysis of the noncount nouns proved several expectations. The most general partitives, i.e. *bit(s)*, and *lot*, which in their meaning are usually quite vague, connect with all the selected noncount nouns. The only exception is the noun *underwear*, which co-occurs only with *bits* (the specificity of *underwear* is probably connected to the fact that unlike the rest of the selected nouns, it can be taken as an aggregate of entities, like *clothes* (Huddleston/Pullum et al., 2002, 343)). *Piece(s)*, even though it is claimed to be one of the most frequent general partitives, does not occur with all the selected nouns (only with eight), and if it does, the other general partitives used with the particular noun are more frequent.<sup>21</sup> All the co-occurrences of noncount nouns with their general quantity partitives are summarized in Table 17.

	Salt	Meat	Wine	Ice	Underwear	Dust	Humour	Fun	Luck	Silence	Anger	Violence
Amount(s)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
Bit(s)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Deal	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Element(s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Item(s)	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Load(s)	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+
Lot	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Piece(s)	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+

**Table 17: The co-occurrence of the noncount nouns with general partitives (The most frequent general partitive for each of the selected noncount nouns is indicated by a darker-coloured cell).**

None of the noncount nouns appears with all the general partitives found in the data. *Lot*, as is evident from Table 17, is the most frequently co-occurring partitive, having the most instances of general partitives with *wine*, *dust*, *fun*, *silence*, *anger*, and *violence*. The general partitive *element(s)* appears only with abstract nouns (but occurred with all of them). Of abstract nouns, *violence*, and *fun* co-occur with the highest number of the general partitives (7/8); of concrete nouns, it is *meat*, *wine*, and *ice* (all three appeared with 6/8 general partitives). All the noncount nouns appeared at least with one quality partitive each. *Kind(s)*, except for *ice*, connects with all the noncount nouns; most frequently with *violence*, which is then often

<sup>21</sup> „The most frequent ‘general partitive nouns’ are *a piece*, and *a bit*; *a piece of* can be used with concrete and abstract noncount obliques: *a piece of bacon* (concrete), *a piece of information* (abstract) (Quirk et al., 1985: 249).” Cf. page 15

further post-modified. Apart from *underwear*, the nominal obliques have quite a wide range of typical partitive nouns.

Except for *underwear*, all the remaining concrete noncount nouns connect with at least two ‘units of measurement’. Conversely the abstract nouns either do not connect with them at all or only with one type and in one instance, i.e. *luck*, *silence*, and *violence*. Undoubtedly, this is given by the inherent property of those nouns, which can be felt, but cannot be physically touched; however, I expected that the abstract nouns will connect with ‘units of measurement’ more often. The co-occurrence of the noncount nouns with the individual semantic types of typical partitives is summarized in Table 18.

	<i>Salt</i>	<i>Meat</i>	<i>Wine</i>	<i>Ice</i>	<i>Underwear</i>	<i>Dust</i>	<i>Humour</i>	<i>Fun</i>	<i>Luck</i>	<i>Silence</i>	<i>Anger</i>	<i>Violence</i>
Container	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Shape	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Article of substance	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-spezif. Quantity	+	+	+	+	-	+	small	large	+	large	small	+
<i>-ful(s)/load(s)</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specific instance	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Time relation	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+

**Table 18: The co-occurrence of the noncount nouns with semantic classes of partitives**

There are semantic types of partitive means which combine only with concrete nouns (‘shape’, ‘article of substance’, and ‘nouns ending in *-ful(s)/-load(s)*’<sup>22</sup>) or only with abstract ones (‘specific instance’, ‘time relation’). Both abstract and concrete nouns very frequently appeared in the semantic subcategory of ‘non-specified quantity’. This may be a proof of a frequent use of vague language, and a tendency towards less specific indication of quantity. Another semantic class of partitives which co-occurred with both concrete and abstract nouns is ‘container’. Its combination with abstract nouns is restricted (*anger* and *violence* only), and infrequent. If a ‘container’ partitive does occur with abstract nouns, it is used metaphorically (e.g. *a boiling cauldron of repressed anger*, *bags of violence*). The analysis also proved that the different semantic classification of the typical partitives was necessary, as the concrete and abstract obliques are mostly partitioned on the basis of different criteria. In addition, the ‘time relation’ subcategory proved to be quite indispensable and frequent for the abstract

<sup>22</sup> Only one partitive ‘noun ending in *-ful(s)/-load(s)*’, i.e. *sack-loads*, was found to co-occur with noncount abstract nouns (i.e. with *fun*). As this semantic sub-category was not established for the abstract noncount nouns, the partitive was classified into the ‘non-specified large quantity’ sub-category.

nouns. The time related partitives quantify the noncount nouns with respect to the time span; this type of partitives was not mentioned in any of the grammars or research articles used.

Of concrete nouns, *wine* has the greatest variety of partitive nouns (most of them belong to the subcategory of ‘container’). With the abstract nouns the partitives are more evenly distributed, but the greatest variety connects with *violence*. As was mentioned in chapter 3 ‘Material and Method’, those are the noncount nouns that have the most occurrences in the BNC; there is therefore sufficient evidence for the identification of the various types of partitive means. The samples of *dust*, and *meat*, in addition, showed that prototypically known typical partitives used in grammars (i.e. *speck*, and *slice*) of these noncount nouns are not the most common ones, not even in their respective semantic sub-categories. On the other hand, the nouns *ice* and *luck* do co-occur most frequently with their expected typical partitives *block* and *stroke* (Quirk et al., and Dušková et al.).

Adjectives pre-modifying the partitive noun, the nominal oblique, or both were overall quite common, even though the instances without modifiers constituted the majority of partitive constructions. Some of the nominal obliques have inherent adjective modifiers: e.g. *luck* is most commonly modified by polar *bad* and *good*; *wine* is very frequently modified by *red* and *white*. Other noncount obliques do not have such preferences for pre-modifiers. Of all the partitive nouns, *deal* is always pre-modified, typically by *great*. The most frequent pre-modifiers of the partitives denote size, amount or dimensions: *great*, *little*, *small*, *large*, *long*, *thin*, *huge*, *high*, *vast*, *whole*, *tiny* (*huge slabs of meat*, *huge amount of fun*, *a whole lot of fun*, *a tiny speck of dust*), frequency: *rare*, *occasional*, *sudden*, *usual* (*the occasional flash of dry humour*, *a rare flash of humour*, *a sudden surge of anger*, *the usual amount of salt*) and evaluation: *good*, *nice* (*a good bottle of wine*, *a nice drop of wine*). In some cases, modifiers standing before the partitives modified the noncount obliques rather than the partitive nouns, e.g. *orange mounds of dust*, *a nice glass of wine*.

Lastly, the analysis showed that the division of quantity partitives into either general or typical is not quite sufficient. They seem to constitute a scale, which can be said to comprise five groups:

1. General partitives *bit*, and *lot* which have the most variable distribution and connect with almost every noncount noun.
2. Other general partitives (such as *element(s)*, *deal*, *amount(s)*, and *item(s)*), which are more restricted in this sense, and connect with only a few of the nominal obliques (e.g. *element(s)* co-occurs only with the selected abstracts).

3. Typical partitives that appear with both concrete and abstract nouns; those fall to the sub-categories of ‘container’ (e.g. *bag(s)*<sup>23</sup>) and ‘non-specified quantity’, e.g. *speck of dust/meat/luck, lump of meat/ice/humour*.
4. Typical partitives that appear either with abstract noncount nouns or concrete ones, but in the scope of their abstract/concrete category co-occur with more than one oblique (e.g. *moment of silence/anger/fun/violence; cup of wine/salt/ice*).
5. Typical partitives that appear with only one of the selected nouns (e.g. *pinch of salt*).

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<sup>23</sup> *Bags* with abstract noncount nouns is always metaphoric; in some instances this holds true also for concrete ones. This may imply, that *bag(s)* can be taken as a vague general partitive in specific cases.

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## 7. Resumé

Bakalářská práce se zaměřila na kategorii počitatelnosti, zejména pak na nepočitatelná substantiva. Hlavním cílem práce bylo najít lexikální prostředky, jejichž užití umožňuje v angličtině přechod nepočitatelných substantiv k počitatelnosti.

Teoretická část se nejprve soustředila na vymezení gramatických, sémantických a formálních rozdílů mezi počitatelnými a nepočitatelnými substantivy: nepočitatelná substantiva netvoří plurálovou formu a nepojí se s určitými číslovkami, a pokud ano, jedná se pouze o specifické, kontextově dané použití. V druhé části teoretické kapitoly pak byly popsány prostředky, které umožňují přechod k počitatelnosti. Někdy mohou být nepočitatelná substantiva převedena na počitatelná pomocí neurčitého členu. K tomu dochází zejména, pokud je nepočitatelné substantivum modifikované (např. *an oppressive darkness hung all around us*). Některá nepočitatelná substantiva mohou mít tzv. „dual class membership“ (tj. „dvojí zařazení“). To znamená, že v určitých kontextech se primárně nepočitatelná substantiva mohou chovat jako počitatelná a naopak, např. *cake: Would you like a cake?* (myšleno kousek) / *No, I do not like cake* (myšleno obecně, jako pokrm). Posledním, a pro tuto práci nejdůležitějším způsobem, bylo použití singulativ, neboli partitivních konstrukcí, které vyjadřují určité množství nepočitatelného substantiva. Partitivní konstrukce se skládá ze singulativa + *of* + nepočitatelného substantiva. Singulativa se dělí na tři typy: kvalitativní, kvantitativní a taková, která vyjadřují míru (např. váhu, délku, apod.). Poznatky o různých druzích singulativ a jejich užití byly využity v praktické části práce, kde jsem teoreticky popsaná singulativa využila ke své vlastní kategorizaci.

Materiál analyzovaný v praktické části byl čerpán z Britského národního korpusu. Bylo prozkoumáno dvanáct nepočitatelných substantiv, šest konkrétních a šest abstraktních: *salt, meat, wine, ice, underwear, dust a humour, fun, luck, silence, anger, violence*. Hlavním cílem praktické části práce bylo najít konkrétní singulativa, která umožňují přechod zmíněných nepočitatelných substantiv k počitatelnosti, a vytvořit jak kvantitativní, tak sémantickou klasifikaci těchto singulativ. Dále byla také sledována možná modifikace účastníků *of*-konstrukce adjektivy (hlavně v kontextu nepočitatelného substantiva), a také vágnost některých singulativ. Nalezená singulativa byla nejprve rozdělena do tří skupin, tj. kvantitativní singulativa, kvalitativní singulativa, a jednotky míry. Kvantitativní singulativa byla rozdělena na obecná a typická. Singulativa spadající do kvantitativní typické kategorie byla posléze ještě roztržena do podkategorií podle jejich významu, tj. ‚nádob/balení‘, ‚konkrétní instance‘, ‚nespecifikované malé množství‘, ‚nespecifikované velké množství‘ a ‚časové trvání‘ pro abstrakta, a ‚nádob/balení‘, ‚tvar‘, ‚část látky‘, ‚nespecifikované

množství', a ,singulativa končící příponou *-ful(s)/-load(s)*' pro konkréta. Tyto podskupiny nejsou identické pro konkrétní a abstraktní nepočitatelná substantiva, protože se očekávalo, že se konkréta a abstrakta budou pojit s významově odlišnými singulativy, což se potvrdilo.

Nejtěžší částí analýzy bylo rozhodnutí, zda substantivum, které má nějakým způsobem dělit nepočitatelné substantivum, je nebo není singulativem. To se týká hlavně typických singulativ. Hlavním kritériem bylo, zda potenciální singulativa indikují kvantitu nebo trvání objektu nebo jevu označovaného daným substantivem. Dalším problémem bylo v některých případech určit, do které podkategorie typické singulativum patří. Analýza také ukázala, že některá substantiva, např. *dust* a *ice*, se v *of*-konstrukci objevují nejen jako nepočitatelná substantiva, ale mohou fungovat také jako adjektivní modifikátory, či jako část složeného substantiva. Takové konstrukce byly proto z kvantitativního výčtu vyškrtnuty.

Tabulka 19 shrnuje, která obecná kvantitativní substantiva se pojí s jednotlivými nepočitatelnými substantivy. U každého nepočitatelného substantiva je tmavší barvou indikováno jeho nejčastější singulativum.

	Salt	Meat	Wine	Ice	Underwear	Dust	Humour	Fun	Luck	Silence	Anger	Violence
Amount(s)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+
Bit(s)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Deal	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
Element(s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Item(s)	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Load(s)	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+
Lot	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Piece(s)	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+

**Tabulka 19: Přehled nepočitatelných substantiv a jejich obecných kvantitativních singulativ**

Potvrdila se hypotéza, že se všechna vybraná nepočitatelná substantiva budou pojit s podobným vzorkem kvalitativních a obecných kvantitativních singulativ. *Bit(s)* (která se řadí mezi obecná kvantitativní singulativa) se pojilo se všemi vybranými substantivy; *lot* pak se všemi kromě velice specifického *underwear*. *Piece(s)* se neobjevilo hned se čtyřmi vybranými substantivy (dvěma konkrétními a dvěma abstraktními), ačkoliv je v odborných zdrojích uváděno jako jedno z nejčastějších obecných singulativ. S úplně všemi nalezenými singulativy se nepojí ani jedno z nepočitatelných substantiv. Z tabulky také vyplývá, že *lot* je nejčastějším singulativem pro *wine*, *dust*, *fun*, *silence*, *anger* a *violence*. Obecné singulativum *element(s)* se pojí pouze s abstraktními substantivy, ale v rámci kombinace s abstrakty nemá



žádná další omezení. S největším počtem singulativ se z abstraktních substantiv pojí *violence* a *fun* (se 7 z 8 singulativ), z konkrétních se pak se šesti vyskytuje *meat*, *wine* a *ice*.

Všechna nepočitatelná substantiva se pojí s alespoň jedním kvalitativním singulativem. *Kind(s)* se, kromě substantiva *ice*, objevuje se všemi substantivy; nejčastěji pak s *violence*.

Odlišně se konkréta a abstrakta také pojí s jednotkami míry. Kromě *underwear* se s alespoň dvěma jednotkami pojí všechna konkrétní substantiva. Na druhou stranu, abstrakta se s nimi buď nepojí vůbec, nebo jen s jedním, a to v jednom, metaforickém případě. Tento rozdíl je dán povahou abstraktních substantiv, která člověk spíše pociťuje, či zažívá, než exaktně měří. Tabulka 20 ukazuje, s jakými typy specifických singulativ se nepočitatelná substantiva vyskytují.

	<i>Salt</i>	<i>Meat</i>	<i>Wine</i>	<i>Ice</i>	<i>Under-wear</i>	<i>Dust</i>	<i>Hum-our</i>	<i>Fun</i>	<i>Luck</i>	<i>Silence</i>	<i>Anger</i>	<i>Violence</i>
Nádoba-balení	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Tvar	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Část látky	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nespec. Množství	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
-ful(s)/-load(s)	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Konkrétní instance	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Časové určení	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+

**Tabulka 20: Přehled nepočitatelných substantiv a jejich typických kvantitativních singulativ, rozdělených podle sémantiky**

Potvrdila se hypotéza, že bude nezbytné vytvořit dvě odlišné sémantické klasifikace specifických singulativ, jelikož některé typy singulativ se pojí pouze s konkrétními substantivy (,tvar‘, ,část látky‘, ,singulativa končící příponou -ful(s)/-load(s)‘<sup>24</sup>), zatímco jiná pouze s abstrakty (,konkrétní instance‘, ,časové určení‘) Velmi často se jak abstrakta, tak konkréta pojila s blíže nespecifikovaným množstvím. To může být jedním z dokladů častého používání vágního, nepřesného vyjadřování, které bylo popsáno v teoretické části práce. Kromě blíže nespecifikovaného množství je jedinou společnou podkategorií ,nádob/balení‘, která ale neobsahuje skoro žádná singulativa abstrakt, a pokud ano, jsou myšlena pouze metaforicky (např. *bags of violence*). Přidání kategorie ,časového určení‘ se ukázalo jako nezbytné, jelikož to byla jedna z nejhojněji zastoupených podkategorií pro abstrakta, která indikuje kvantitu ve smyslu délky času, ačkoliv gramatiky ji vůbec nezmiňují.

<sup>24</sup> *Sack-loads* bylo jediným singulativem s příponou -ful(s)/-load(s), které se objevilo s některým z abstraktních substantiv (s *fun*). Jelikož pro abstrakta podkategorie ,singulativa končící příponou -ful(s)/-load(s)‘ nebyla vytvořena, *sack-loads* bylo zařazeno do kategorie ,nespecifikované velké množství‘.

Nejširší škálu singulativ má z konkrétních substantiv *wine* (většina z nich spadá do podkategorie „nádob/balení“) a z abstraktních *violence*. Zajímavým zjištěním analýzy je, že *dust* a *meat* se pojí nejčastěji s jinými typickými singulativy (tj. *cloud(s)*, a *cut(s)*), než které gramatiky (jmenovitě Quirk et al.) uvádí jako pro ně typické, tj. *speck*, a *slice*. Na druhou stranu, *ice* nebo *luck* se nejčastěji pojí s typickými singulativy *block* a *stroke*, které gramatiky (Quirk et al., Dušková et al.) uvádějí jako pro ně klasické.

Adjektiva, která modifikovala singulativa, nepočítatelná substantiva nebo obě, se objevila u každého nepočítatelného substantiva. Na druhou stranu, konstrukce, ve kterých nepočítatelné substantivum nebylo modifikované, byly mnohem častější než ty s modifikací. Ukázalo se také, že některá substantiva, např. *luck* a *wine*, mají své typické adjektivní modifikátory, tj. *luck* se velice často pojí s *bad* a *good*, *wine* s *red* a *white*. Ostatní substantiva nemají své jednoznačné, typické adjektivum. Singulativum *deal*, na druhou stranu bylo vždy modifikované, typicky adjektivem *great*. Nejčastější pre-modifikátory značí velikost, množství, a rozměr: *great*, *little*, *small*, *large*, *long*, *thin*, *huge*, *high*, *vast*, *whole*, *tiny* (*huge slabs of meat*, *huge amount of fun*, *a whole lot of fun*, *a tiny speck of dust*), četnost: *rare*, *occasional*, *sudden*, *usual* (*the occasional flash of dry humour*, *a rare flash of humour*, *a sudden surge of anger*, *the usual amount of salt*) a hodnocení: *good*, *nice* (*a good bottle of wine*, *a nice drop of wine*). V některých případech adjektiva, která stála před singulativem, modifikovala spíše dané nepočítatelné substantivum než singulativum, např. *orange mounds of dust* (tj. *haldy oranžového prachu*).

Dále se ukázalo, že rozdělení singulativ jen na obecná a typická je příliš zjednodušující, jelikož možnost kombinovatelnosti singulativ s nepočítatelnými substantivy lze vyjádřit spíše na širší škále:

1. Obecná kvantitativní singulativa *bit*, a *lot*, která se objevují skoro se všemi nepočítatelnými substantivy.
2. Ostatní obecná kvantitativní singulativa (např. *element(s)*, *deal*, *amount(s)* a *item(s)*) se pojí pouze s několika nepočítatelnými substantivy (např. *element(s)* se kombinuje pouze s abstrakty).
3. Typická singulativa, která se kombinuje jak s konkréty, tak s abstrakty (např. *speck of dust/meat/luck*).
4. Typická singulativa, která se pojí buď s konkréty, nebo abstrakty, ale v rámci své skupiny je můžeme nalézt s různými substantivy, např. *moment of silence/anger/fun...*).
5. Typická singulativa, která se kombinují pouze s jedním ze substantiv (např. *pinch of salt*).